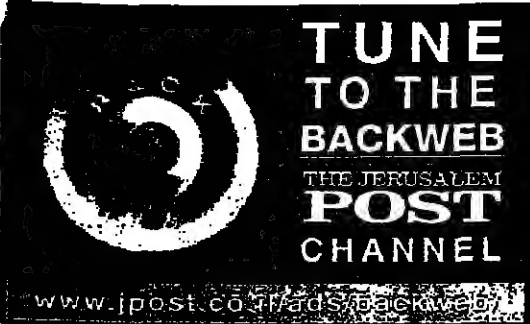




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Europe takes charge in Ryder Cup

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Iran missile program nearly complete — Mordechai

By STEVE RODAN and ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Iran, with massive aid from Russia, is on the verge of completing its development of ballistic missiles that can strike any part of Israel. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said.

But the US and Israel disagree over how to pressure Russia to immediately stop aid to Tehran before the Islamic republic achieves the ability to independently manufacture such missiles. The Clinton administration wants to concentrate on quiet diplomatic efforts, while Israel is lobbying Congress to cut off US

aid to Moscow.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, Mordechai said the US and Israel have received intelligence information over the past few months that have led both countries to conclude that Tehran has progressed faster than previously thought in both its medium-range ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programs. The most impressive progress was in Iran's missile program.

"Iran is on the verge of achieving capability of producing long-range missiles that have strategic dangers to Israel, as well as to US interests in the region," he said.

Mordechai said that, at Iran's current pace of development, Tehran will be able to manufacture missiles that can hit Israel, the Gulf states, Asia, and parts of Europe by 1999. He said Iran also wants to increase its chemical weapons and produce biological and nuclear weapons.

Western intelligence officials say Iran has embarked on three missile programs. One has a range of 1,500 kilometers, which can hit Israel, the Gulf states and Asia. Another has a range of 3,000 km, which can hit much of Western Europe. A third is a program to develop a missile of 5,500 km, believed to be largely aimed at striking US targets in the

Pacific.

Mordechai said US intelligence officials now have a more alarming assessment than that of their Israeli colleagues of how close Iran is to achieving its goal.

The new intelligence, Mordechai said, shows that Russia has violated months of pledges to stop aid to Iran's missile and non-conventional weapons programs.

"We tried all ways, through the Americans, also directly to the Russians," Mordechai said. "There were [Russian] people, including ministers, who promised them that they will stop [sending] technology and capability to Iran. They promised that to the president

of the US, [to US Vice President] Al Gore, the prime minister [Binyamin Netanyahu] and others who visited Russia.

"We were surprised to learn that the opposite took place: that Russia and Russian companies have accelerated the process; that Iran can achieve independent capability in these areas as fast as possible so they won't be under pressure."

Mordechai said Israel has concluded that it must increase diplomatic efforts to stop the Iranian effort. As a result, officials have lobbied their colleagues in Europe, Russia, and the US to stop the

transfer of technology to the Islamic republic.

But the Clinton administration opposes the use of US economic aid as a lever to stop Russian aid programs to Tehran. Mordechai acknowledged that US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is opposed to a cutoff of American aid to Russia.

"We believe that we need additional measures to impress on the Russians, for them to understand that it will hurt their economic interests and other interests as well," Mordechai said.

See IRAN, Page 11

Israel Radio reports:

IDF training for war with PA

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

IDF troops reportedly staged a series of military exercises near Jenin last week aimed at reconquering Palestinian-controlled areas and battling PLO fighters assaulting Jewish settlements.

PA rounds up Hamas activists, Page 2

According to Israel Radio yesterday, soldiers practiced recapturing a Jewish settlement that had been overrun by the Palestinian Police. In the drill, the IDF succeeded in its mission, but suffered a great number of casualties, the radio said. Other units carried out maneuvers, including operations in Palestinian areas, the radio said.

The exercise took place one year after the bloody riots that followed the opening of an exit to the Western Wall Tunnel. It was seen as sending a message to the Palestinian Authority that the IDF has learned the lessons of last year and is preparing for the possibility of an all-out war with the Palestinians.

The IDF, which has previously acknowledged it has contingency plans for a major conflagration with the Palestinians in the territories, refused to elaborate on the reported exercise, saying it does not discuss operational activity or training.

But one military source dismissed the idea that it was actually aimed at reconquering the territories. "There was an exercise, but it certainly was not aimed at recapturing the West Bank," said the source.

Quoting a senior PA security official, Reuters said the IDF had trained with helicopters, tanks, and troops near Jewish settlements around Jenin.

Military Intelligence and the General Security Service have steadily warned of the increasing possibility of a renewed Palestinian uprising in the territories, saying this time it would include gun battles with Palestinian forces. They also say that PA cooperation in fighting terror is conditional on progress in peacemaking.

According to Ha'aretz, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's government has rejected this intelligence assessment. In an interview last week with Channel 2, Netanyahu called the Ha'aretz report inaccurate and incomplete.



Travelers jam Ben-Gurion Airport last night in an attempt to fly out before today's scheduled strike.

(Ben Otsdaryan/Israel Sun)

General strike set for today

By DAVID HARRIS

By midnight last night, it appeared that the Histadrut would go ahead with an open-ended general strike starting at 6 a.m. this morning, affecting some half a million workers, despite last-ditch negotiations with the Finance Ministry to avert it.

Histadrut and Treasury representatives met three times over the weekend in an attempt to prevent what the Histadrut is dubbing as the largest-ever strike in Israel's history.

The National Labor Court also considered appeals last night from the state, the Manufacturers' Association, the banks' representative organization, the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and the Union of Local Authorities in Israel, for injunctions against the strike.

MK Avraham Poraz of Shinui

asked Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak to personally intervene and call off the strike.

"I'm neither optimistic nor pessimistic," Finance Ministry Director-General Shmuel Slavin said. "We have until 5:59 a.m. to prevent the strike."

But by midnight the Histadrut had already set the wheels in motion for strikes throughout the economy, including the private sector.

Full strikes were expected to paralyze government offices, including the National Insurance Institute, the Employment Service, local authorities, schools, banks, the Postal Authority, the fuel industry, buses, airports, seaports, military industries, textile and food industries, metalworks, agriculture, and electronics industries.

See STRIKE, Page 2

Court verdict on Olmert fraud charges due today

By ELI WOHLGELER

The Tel Aviv District Court is expected to rule today in the campaign fraud trial of Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert.

The case involves the 1988 Knesset elections and the 1989 local council elections, when Olmert was treasurer for the Likud, and a member of a non-profit organization in charge of donations to the party.

According to the indictment, Olmert is accused of intentionally misleading the state comptroller by "hiding the fact that the Likud received, against the provisions of

the Campaign Funding Law, contributions from Israeli corporations."

The corporations received receipts indicating they had paid for "advertising," thereby enabling them to claim the campaign donations as business expenses, in violation of tax laws, the indictment says.

It also charges that in its report to the state comptroller for the 1988 elections, the Likud did not include corporate contributions in the total for campaign contributions received.

Olmert refused to comment on the case yesterday.

At his court appearance on May 21, Olmert testified that he had not been in charge of donations from Israeli companies. He said that those responsible, Yona Peled and Menahem Atzmon, had been tried and convicted for the offenses.

"That year I was extremely busy," said Olmert. "I had no time to think about anything. I had to appear every evening at three or four places as part of our campaign."

According to Olmert, Atzmon was in charge of contributions. "I trusted him and Peled implicitly," he said.

Weizman to meet Mubarak in Egypt

President Ezer Weizman will meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak today in Alexandria, to discuss the peace process and the case of Israeli Druse Azzam Azzam, who is serving a 15-year sentence in Egypt for espionage.

Also expected to be discussed is Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's announcement of plans to further expand Eilat in Gush Etzion, plans which have angered Palestinians.

Weizman, an architect of the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, has strong ties with Mubarak. This visit was arranged after Mubarak telephoned Weizman to express condolences over the September 4 suicide bombings on Rehov Ben-Yehuda which killed 5 Israelis.

The formal invitation arrived this weekend, and Weizman, with Netanyahu's approval, decided to head right away for the meeting, before his scheduled departure for Washington to meet President Clinton after Rosh Hashana.

Weizman met Netanyahu on Friday to discuss the trip. They also discussed Weizman's planned US trip and the latest political steps between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

Afterwards Weizman met with Egypt's Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny to plan the Egypt visit.

Weizman will fly directly to Alexandria and meet Mubarak late in the morning through lunch.

(News agencies)

Barak's 'Sephardi strategy' faces convention test

By SARAH HONIG

The Labor Party engaged yesterday in hectic efforts to get as many of its 3,700 convention delegates as possible to come today to the southern development town of Netivot, for a special sitting of the party convention.

This session is part of party chairman MK Ehud Barak's strategy to woo Sephardi voters away from the Likud. Thus the central resolution on the convention's agenda is the "Recognition and apology for past errors and turning over a new leaf."

Barak is expected to repeat and embellish the apology he gave last Thursday, in which he asked the Sephardim to forgive generations of Laborites for "the pain and suffering" they caused them in the early days of the state.

This apology, while recognized as an attempt to improve the party's electoral prospects, is not universally applauded in Labor. Many argue that no one appointed Barak to speak on behalf of past generations, or ascribe sins to departed leaders who, to judge from their own pronouncements, did not consider themselves guilty.

Leading this anti-apology school of thought are former party secretary-general Nissim Zivli and would-be secretary-general Hagai Merom.

Merom said last night that "even the most pressing political expediency does not provide anyone with the license to

rewrite history according to his momentary convenience and need. The end does not always justify the means."

"The State of Israel in its early days did not have the means to provide newcomers with any more luxurious absorption than they were given, and veteran Israelis also did not have enough to eat. To claim that there was any wrongdoing and guilt, is to unjustly administer an impudent, callous slap in the face to the generation which founded the state and in particular to David Ben-Gurion."

"Barak, as someone who has only recently mounted the Labor bandwagon, certainly has no authority and no right to pass judgment on anyone or to apologize on behalf of deceased leaders."

The Likud has sharply criticized Barak's remarks.

At a toast for the new year hosted by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu on Friday, Science Minister Michael Eitan said that "the first apology by Barak on behalf of generations of Laborites should have gone to the Likud and all its predecessor generations — the Revisionists, Herut, and Gahal — who always took up the cause of those in Israeli society shunned by the ruling elitist establishment."

Shas's Aryeh Deri said that "as long as there is the slightest link between Labor and Meretz, Barak cannot win Sephardi hearts."

Tens of thousands mark end of Talmud study cycle

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Some 26,000 people are expected to pack Madison Square Garden this evening for the celebration of the *Daf Yomi Siyum Hashas* — the completion, after over seven years, of the daily study of the 2,711 pages of the Talmud.

The New York area overflow — another 18,000 people — will be at the Nassau Coliseum on Long Island. All told, 70,000 are expected to participate in the event, which was organized in North America by Agudath Israel of America. They will attend via satellite hook-ups from around the globe, including Jerusalem, Johannesburg, London, Montreal and San Diego.

Daf Yomi ("A daily page") is a study program in which students learn a page of Talmud each day. The study of the entire Talmud takes about seven-and-a-

half years.

The concept originated in Vienna in 1923, at the First International Congress of Agudath Israel, and was the brainchild of Rabbi Meir Shapiro of Poland, later the Lubliner rav.

The program was devised to unify Jews around the world by having them study the same page of Talmud each day. Participants study alone, or in groups meeting in homes, synagogues or — in one case — as studious commuters on the Long Island Railroad.

Daf Yomi has spawned a variety of tools to aid participants and has taken advantage of modern technology to extend its reach. These include the Internet and "Dial-a-Daf," which provides phone or taped daily Talmud lessons in Hebrew, English and Yiddish. It is said to be used by tens of thousands of people in Israel and North America.



NEWS

in brief

Sharansky 'secretly' meets Sandy Berger

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky met in Washington with National Security Adviser Sandy Berger on Thursday without Ambassador Eliyahu Ben-Elissar's knowledge, according to an embassy official.

When Ben-Elissar found out about the planned meeting, he angrily cabled Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, after which Sharansky called and asked Ben-Elissar to participate. By then, however, Ben-Elissar was in New York to join Foreign Minister David Levy at the UN, the official said, adding that other Netanyahu insiders have met with US officials without Ben-Elissar's knowledge.

Hillel Kautler

Motorcyclist killed near Tel Aviv

Motorcyclist Yigal Levy, 29, from Rosh Ha'ayin, was killed and his passenger slightly injured when their vehicle skidded and overturned by Geillot junction near Tel Aviv last night. Nine people were killed last week and 119 were injured in 717 traffic accidents. Among the injured, 12 were in serious condition and 36 were moderately injured, according to Magen David Adom.

Tim

Battalion commanders recognized

Reserve and active duty battalion commanders from across the country will be hosted tonight by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and the IDF general staff in Tel Aviv in recognition of their service to the country.

It is the second time that the scores of battalion commanders are being singled out for recognition and Mordechai hopes to make it a tradition in order to boost morale. Battalion commanders represent, in general, the most senior ranking field officer in combat. As lieutenant colonels, many often spend upwards of 70 days a year in reserve duty.

Arieh O'Sullivan

Rosh Hashana gifts for soldiers

Holon schoolchildren and their parents made a special delivery on Friday, bringing hundreds of Rosh Hashana gifts and food parcels to IDF soldiers serving along the northern border and in the security zone. Organizers said that during such difficult times they wanted the soldiers to know that there were people who thought and cared about them and appreciated their efforts.

David Kudge

RUBY BIRKAN

passed away on Friday, September 26, 1997
Deeply mourned by his wife Judy, sons Selwyn,
Lionel and Paul, and their families.
Funeral today at 11:30 a.m. in Herzliya

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of

Mrs. SYLVIA FINER

widow of Rabbi Morris Finer.

The funeral was held Saturday night
at Har Hamenuhot.

Shiva at the residence of the deceased
10 Yehuda Karni St., Ramot B 135/1, Jerusalem.

David Judah and Mimi Finer and family
Yitzhak (Bennet) and Paula Finer and family
Sharon and Yoel Ben-Avraham and family

My beloved wife, our mother and grandmother

FRANZI FEUER

has left us forever.

Deeply mourned by:

husband Eric R. Feuer

sons: Dan & Ilana Schiller

Gad & Nava Schiller

grandchildren: Ofer, Ifat, Inbal,

Dana, Elnat

The funeral will take place today,

September 28, 1997, at 1:30 p.m.

at Moshav Salyit

Shiva at: Gad Schiller

88 Hagolan St., Ramat Hachayal.

Bus leaves at 12:15 from the deceased's home

43 Aharonson St., Ramat Gan

We mourn the sudden passing of our beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and sister

MARION MARKOVITZ

For information about funeral arrangements
please call (02)5630852

Shiva will be observed at the home of the
deceased 21 Disraeli St., Jerusalem
Selichot & Shacharit 6:30, Mincha 17:15

Hershel Markovitz
Naomi Markovitz
Joshua Markovitz
Sarah Markovitz
Jacob Pinnolis

Sophie Stern
Helen Rosenbaum
Bette Sank
and families
Ayelet Pinnolis

PA rounds up Hamas activists

By STEVE RODAN,
MARGOT DUDKEVITCH
and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Palestinian Authority security forces rounded up 70 to 100 Hamas activists over the weekend as PA officials accused movement leaders of violating an understanding to halt terrorism against Israel.

Hamas officials warned that the arrests would strain national unity and accused the PA of doing the bidding of Israel and the US. Officials said PA Chairman Yasser Arafat was furious that Hamas misled him by denying it was involved

in the two recent suicide bombings in Jerusalem, cabinet officials in Hebron said Friday.

The latest round of arrests began on Friday when PA security forces raided Hamas clubs and homes of Hamas activists.

"The crackdown was launched to preserve national security," said one police official, who declined to be identified. "We will not allow anyone to violate our laws by a word or by an action."

The Gaza Islamic Society, its sports club, the Moslem Women's Society, the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development and the

Islamic Compound were among 16 institutions shut down.

Ismail Haniya, head of the sports club, said the team was celebrating a victory when police burst in and ordered the premises evacuated.

Senior Hamas official Abdul-Aziz Rantisi said the PA crackdown will split the Palestinians.

"It's a hard blow for national dialogue and unity," he said. "The PA has now put obstacles in front of such a dialogue."

Yesterday crowds protested by a checkpoint near the settlement of Kfar Darom in central Gaza, while Fatah called for demonstrations to

mark the anniversary of the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel exit last year, which saw 76 killed in riots near IDF checkpoints.

Yesterday scores of Palestinians stoned IDF troops. One IDF soldier was injured by stones and two Palestinians were shot by rubber bullets used by IDF troops to disperse the rioters.

The Palestinian Police said two 15-year-olds were shot in the legs. Palestinian sources claimed that had their police not intervened the rioters would have come into physical contact with IDF troops.

Arafat refuses
Abdel Rahim
resignation

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has refused to accept the resignation of PA secretary-general Tayeb Abdel Rahim, who has wanted to quit since Israeli evidence disproved his repeated claims that the suicide bombers who attacked Jerusalem recently came from abroad.

During a meeting on Thursday, Arafat asked Abdel Rahim to remain in his position. Palestinian sources said, Abdel Rahim agreed because of the current tensions with Israel, but hopes to resign in the future, they said. (S.R. and M.N.)

PM rejects
US call for
settlement
freezeBy MARILYN HENRY
and news agencies

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday rejected a renewed US call for a freeze on Jewish settlement expansion in the West Bank, saying his "prudent" policy promotes only natural growth.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright - who had been critical of Netanyahu's announcement last Wednesday of planned additional construction in Efrat - seemed to backtrack on Friday. She said the move was ill-timed, but that "if you were just to take the act on its own, it's not something that is particularly provocative. Frankly, it is within the boundaries of an existing settlement."

"I think you don't see anyone suggesting that construction be stopped in the Arab communities, which have natural growth as well, and no one would realistically suggest freezing life," Netanyahu told a Jerusalem news conference, when asked if Israel might temporarily halt settlement construction to facilitate peace talks.

"There is nothing unusual and nothing unreasonable in our policy to allow natural growth in areas that are as contiguous as possible to existing construction," he said, adding, "We're not going a hill too far," he said.

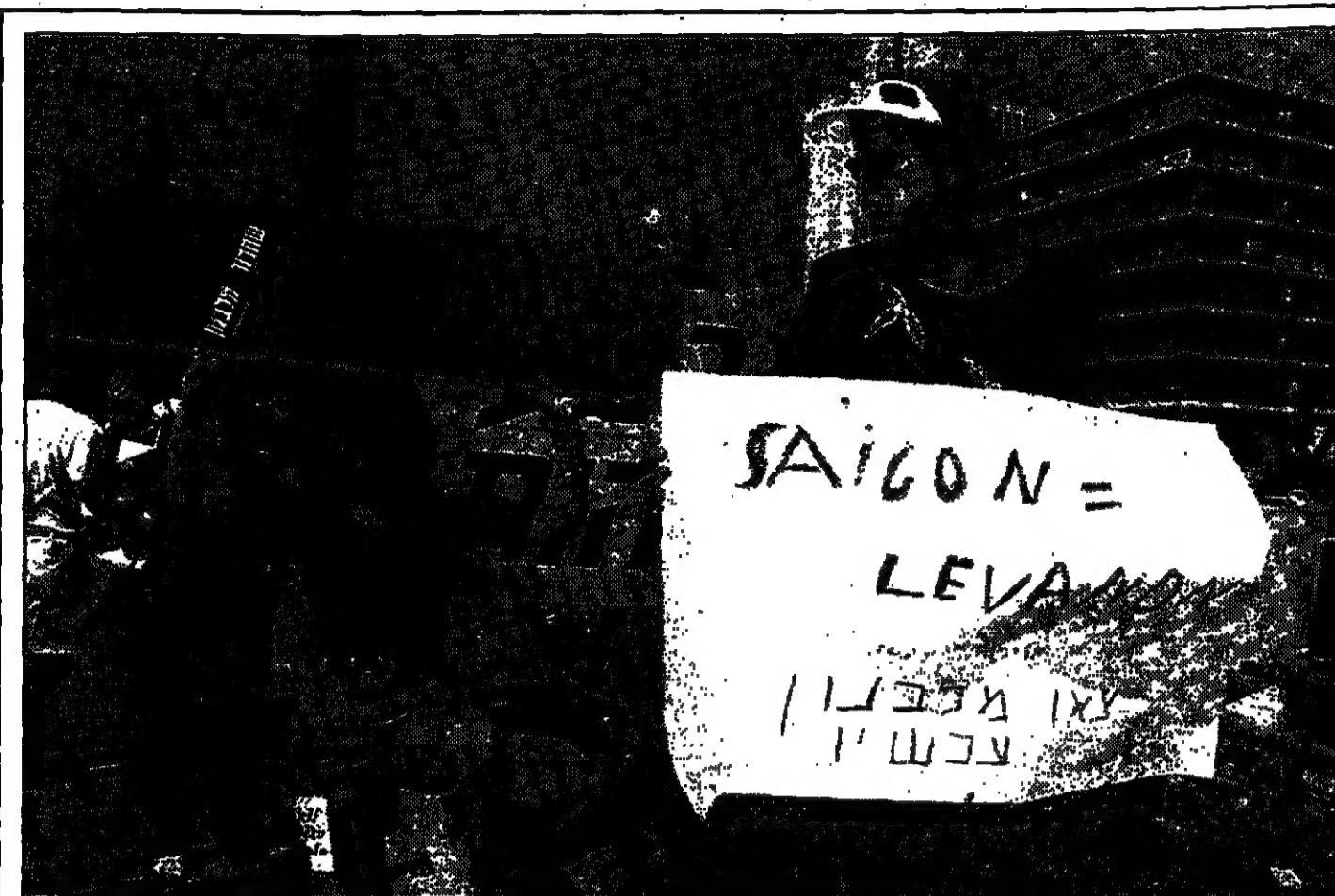
He also said that if the Palestinian Authority had truly begun a systematic crackdown on militants opposed to Palestinian-Israeli agreements, it would bode well for negotiations between the two sides.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister David Levy is to meet again today in New York with US Mideast negotiator Dennis Ross in advance of tomorrow's negotiating session with the PA's Mahmoud Abbas and Albright. Levy and Ross met on Friday to review the status of talks in Washington, and to try to reduce tension over Netanyahu's announcement last Wednesday of the expansion of Efrat.

In meetings over the past week in New York, Levy has seemed increasingly irritated at criticisms of Israel.

"Even if we sneeze, people will concede it is legal, but we would still be told it's provocative," Levy said at one meeting. "There's a new international sport - to attack and blame Israel."

Levy is to address the UN tomorrow during the opening of the 52nd General Assembly.



'Withdraw from Lebanon'

Efrat Spiegel (right), who lost her son, Yoav, in Lebanon in 1983, demonstrates on Friday in Jerusalem's France Square with other members of the Mothers of Soldiers in Lebanon group, calling for the IDF's immediate withdrawal. (Ariel Jersolovski)

Jordan: Tourists
attacked Amman
Hamas leader

AMMAN (Reuters) - Jordan confirmed yesterday that a Hamas leader was attacked in Amman on Thursday after a clash with Canadian tourists, and admitted to hospital with a concussion.

Hamas said the Mossad was involved and vowed revenge against Israel for the attack on politburo chief Khaled Mashal, three days after the shooting of two Israeli embassy guards in Amman. Jordan said the two incidents were not connected, but admitted that they found strange chemicals on Mashal's body.

Minister of State for Information Samir Mutawae said, "It appears that two Canadians were shopping in the area near Mr Mashal's office. They were suspected by his driver, so some form of quarrel happened."

He said that after the first confrontation, Mashal's driver chased the men by car to another site where they clashed again and were all arrested.

Mashal's driver Mohammed Abu Seif said from his hospital bed that one of the men had covered his hand with a cloth before the attack. "Their aim was to kill

him [Mashal] because it would have been difficult to kidnap him as there were too many pedestrians in the street," Abu Seif said.

Mashal was later transferred to a secure military hospital.

"Their resistance was fierce ... they were heavily built and were trying to get rid of me by any means ... they dealt killer blows at me," he said.

He sustained 18 stitches in his head after the Canadians threw a heavy bar to try to escape. A police patrol in the area arrested them.

Canadian diplomats said there did not appear to be a political motive for the skirmish and declined to give the names of the two men who were being questioned.

Arieh O'Sullivan adds:

Hamas, meanwhile, has issued a fresh threat against Israel. In a leaflet issued Thursday, its military wing has vowed to take a bloody campaign of suicide bombings to Israeli targets abroad.

It also accused Israel of trying to assassinate Mashal. "The Zionist enemy will pay a river of blood from one single drop of blood from one of our fighters," the leaflet said.

'Missing' family
was safe in hotel

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

One telephone call to notify worried relatives that they were safe would have prevented an intensive search by over 1,000 people Friday and yesterday for David and Sara Gorenstein and their five children.

When the Gorensteins failed to show up in Ma'aleh Michmash on Friday afternoon for a family brit, concerned relatives alerted police and the IDF, fearing they had been abducted by terrorists or had been in a car accident.

Security forces set up a field headquarters at Ma'aleh Michmash and immediately organized an intensive search that included some 700 soldiers, 300 policemen, and hundreds of volunteers, as well as two helicopters. Israel immediately notified Palestinian security forces asking for their assistance in the investigation.

On Friday, after setting out from their home in Talmon in the Binyamin region for Ma'aleh Michmash, the Gorensteins took a wrong turn, and ended up traveling for two hours without locating the settlement.

"I was scared that I would end up in an even worse situation; I didn't know exactly where I was," David Gorenstein told Army

Radio last night.

Fearing that if they tried to backtrack, they would not make it to Ma'aleh Michmash before Shabbat, they decided to drive to Jerusalem, where they checked into a hotel for the weekend.

A desk clerk who heard about the ongoing search told the family yesterday morning, and David Gorenstein immediately went out to find a policeman. He flagged down a passing police patrol and was shocked to find the policemen knew who he was.

"The knew exactly who I was, what I looked like; they knew all my particulars," he said. "I didn't do this on purpose, but I know I deserve some kind of punishment."

Police, although relieved at the news, found it difficult to comprehend that the family had not bothered to contact anyone, particularly during such tense times.

"When such an incident occurs we consider all possibilities, and that involves hundreds of IDF troops, policemen, and members of the security services," Judea and Samaria police chief Cmdr. Yossi Sidon said yesterday.

Tzvika Urbach, who helped organize the search, said, "They didn't bother to make one phone call; I don't understand it."

HAR-EL SYNAGOGUE
(Progressive-Reform)

Rabbi David Ariel-Yoel

16 Rehov Shmuel Hanagid, Jerusalem

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Thursday, October 2:

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Friday, October 3:

Shacharit - second day of Rosh Hashana - 9:30 a.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat - 5:00 p.m.

Shabbat, October 4:

Shacharit - 9:30 a.m.

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While services are in Hebrew,

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Foreign Minister David Levy (left) shakes hands with Bosnian Foreign Minister Jadranko Prlic in New York on Friday after the two signed an agreement establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries. (Reuters)

Bosnia and Israel establish relations

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Foreign Minister David Levy and Bosnian Foreign Minister Jadranko Prlic signed an agreement on Friday establishing diplomatic relations, in a ceremony that referred to their legacies of suffering.

"The hearts of the people of Israel, and of the entire Jewish people, have been with the Bosnian people throughout their tribulations," Levy said at the

signing here, where he was attending the opening of the 52nd UN General Assembly. "It was only natural that the State of Israel was among the first to extend a helping hand to the Bosnian people in their hour of need."

Israel has provided some \$2.5 million in humanitarian aid to Bosnia, whose population is nearly half Moslem, since the genocidal ethnic violence gripped the former Yugoslavia in 1992.

"Our two peoples have shared

in the past much suffering, but we also share our hopes for the future," Levy said.

Bosnia plans to open an embassy in Tel Aviv.

Prlic noted that Bosnia has very good relations with almost all Arab countries in the Middle East.

"So now — I want to stress this point — we are ready to play a constructive role," he said. "We are for a process of integration, especially in the region of the Mediterranean."

Croatia, another former Yugoslav republic, established diplomatic relations with Israel earlier this month after the Zagreb government apologized in August to the Jewish people for crimes committed by the country's Nazi-backed administration during World War II.

A protocol on relations was signed here by the Croatian envoy to the United Nations, Ivan Simonovic and his Israeli counterpart, Dore Gold.

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

Terror village

The debate between Prime Minister Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Arafat over whether the Jerusalem suicide bombers came from abroad or from territory under Arafat's jurisdiction remains controversial throughout the media, despite the General Security Service's exposure of their origin in Azira Shamalya, near Nablus.

Avinoam Bar Yosef in *Ma'ariv* states that "Netanyahu proved that he was right...the fight against terror has turned into a political matter and therefore the government has a right to emphasize the results of the investigation, even if it smells of 'Zionist propaganda.'"

B. Michael in *Yediot Aharanot* states that no one really knows where they spent their last year. "The knowledge from which womb they came to life, the precise cartography of their father's DNA or the address of the house from which they came, are not at all relevant to the question of which location these murderers came from with bombs in their hands," states Michael.

Ma'ariv's Nadav Haezri claims that Military Intelligence chief Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon stated before the foreign affairs and security committee three weeks ago that the security apparatus of the PA did not cooperate in identifying the terrorists and attempted to tamper with Israel's investigation. "Security sources do not disregard the possibility that the attempt to mislead was done in cooperation with a Hamas terrorist recruiter."

Ha'aretz's Yoel Marcus states that the achievement of the revelation is "in the exposure of Arafat's lies that the bombers came from abroad. His pretense that he did not know, did not see, and did not hear, seems like an insipid joke."

Peretz vs. Friedman

"[Histadrut Chairman] Amir Peretz is frantically resuscitating a dying body and is succeeding in eliminating the Histadrut's last supporters," states *Ma'ariv's* Sima Kadmon.

The Histadrut's decision to launch a strike has also generated a bitter rivalry with Na'amat Chairwoman Ofra Friedman, who broke the strike when Na'amat daycare centers refused to strike. Kadmon stresses that Peretz called for Friedman's dismissal though she was elected by a large majority, while he only inherited his position from Haim Ramon.

"The Bolshevik way Peretz treated Friedman was close to commanding a death squad to shoot her at dawn," writes *Yediot's* Silvie Keshet. "You don't begin a strike in daycare centers against working women. You start at the government institutions where the public will not suffer from the strike."

Charlie Biton in *Ma'ariv* claims that "they are all liars and hypocrites and no one believes them, and Barak is no different from previous leaders."

In his effort to accumulate votes, Barak has turned to another sector that Labor has neglected, the religious sector. *Ma'ariv's* Shmuel Shnitzer refers to the inevitability of hooking up with the religious parties if Labor wants to win the elections. "There are primal signs indicating that Ehud Barak is beginning to understand the formula of governing in Israel," states Shnitzer, adding that religious parties' support is crucial. He stresses the need to find an alliance with The National Religious Party (Mafdal). "Mafdal was and will be the bridge between the traditional Jews and the secular community, and any partnership with non-Zionist religious factions leaving her out, is illogical," Shnitzer writes.

An ambassador's farewell

Barak's Apology

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak's apology to the Sephardi community on behalf of previous Labor Party leaders provoked an extensive response.

Ha'aretz's Gideon Samet questions Barak's motive, claiming that it was a public relations stunt. "What he is saying is: Sorry you don't love me."

He adds that the Sephardi opinion of the Labor Party is not a matter of common sense, nor its political, economic or social policies.

"It is difficult to see when the hostility will diminish in those who so love to hate Labor," he writes. "Shas, politically close to Labor's mentality, is probably Labor's only practical path to the danger zones."

US Ambassador Martin Indyk is leaving Israel after 2 1/2 years of intensive involvement in Israeli politics. In an interview with *Yediot Aharanot's* Nahum Barnea and Shimon Shiffer, he says Syria is the most significant factor in achieving comprehensive peace. "The Palestinian track is like a floor. The Syrian track is like an umbrella. Progress with the Syrians allows everyone to progress." In an interview with *Ma'ariv's* Chemi Shalev, Indyk says: "I am departing with the feeling of something incomplete, a mission unaccomplished... but I still remain optimistic and certain that a comprehensive, secure peace that we are all longing for will be achieved."

US diverts funds for PA to Jordan

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON — One of Congress's most vexing Middle East riddles — What will happen to \$10 million once budgeted for the Palestinians — has been resolved. The funds are heading to Jordan.

That is the outcome of a compromise reached Thursday between the administration and House international relations committee chairman Benjamin Gilman, who clamped the funds for over a year to protest Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's shortcomings in fighting terrorism.

The administration originally directed the money to the Holist Fund for the payment of salaries in the autonomous areas. Withholding the funds has made Gilman a hero to some, including many in the Jewish community, and a villain to Palestinians.

Earlier this month, the administration requested that Gilman free the money for a Gaza sewage treatment project, but he rejected the plan "because he didn't believe that now's the time to reward Arafat," a House source said Friday. At the same time, New York congressman Michael Forbes proposed an amendment to prevent the funds being used for the Gaza project.

With the fiscal year ending Tuesday, Gilman wanted the funds to stay in the region rather than be returned to the US Treasury, and proposed they be divided between Lebanon and Yemen and Jordan.

Because the paperwork for Lebanon and Yemen could not be completed in time, the entire \$10 million will go toward a water project in Jordan, the source said. As part of the deal, Forbes withdrew his amendment.

Meanwhile, Congress has rejected the administration's proposed new legislation for the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act, just one day after it was submitted. The draft after a swift end because several lawmakers were angry that they were bypassed in considering the bill that governs US relations with the PLO, which lapsed in August. There also remains strong congressional opposition to the PLO in light of its perceived failings in fighting terrorism.

According to a House source, the administration committed an egregious error by attempting to shut out congressional authorizers — the chairman of the foreign relations committee — and insert the draft in a pending foreign appropriations bill.

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HERZLIYA PITUAH

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The Royal Yacht 'Britannia,' which Queen Elizabeth II is reported to be giving up, is shown passing by the new Hong Kong Convention Center in Hong Kong Harbor in June. (AP)

Queen may give up royal yacht

By PAUL MYLREA

LONDON (Reuters) — Queen Elizabeth has agreed to abandon plans to replace or overhaul Britain's royal yacht after the Labor government decided it would cost too much, newspapers reported yesterday.

They said the government had calculated that even if private finance could be found for either a new yacht or a refit of the current one, it would face \$19.3 million in annual running costs.

The 44-year-old *Britannia*, which has steamed over one million kilometers in her career, hosting trade shows and diplomatic functions as well as carrying the royal family, is due to be decommissioned at the end of 1997.

The *Financial Times* quoted a senior government source as saying the queen agreed with the decision. "She [the Queen] feels that running a royal yacht is no longer in tune with new attitudes towards the monarchy."

Newspapers reported that the Queen had agreed with the decision, taken by Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown and Prime Minister Tony Blair.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman would only comment: "A decision on the future of *Britannia* remains a matter for the government. Any other reports or assertions to the contrary are speculative."

Britannia, a 6,000-ton luxury yacht with a crew of 236, became an election issue when the Conservatives, routed by Labor

just a few weeks later, promised to commission a new £60 million replacement yacht.

But the announcement, by defense minister Michael Portillo who lost his parliamentary seat at the election, misjudged the public mood. A poll showed 72 percent of Britons disapproved of using public money for a yacht.

The decision will be seen as chiming with the royal family's drive to improve its image after unprecedented criticism that they were aloof and unresponsive to a national outpouring of grief at Princess Diana's death.

An NOP poll taken after Diana's death showed 70% questioned felt the queen was out of touch and 42% saying she should step down now.

Officials checking if smog caused Indonesia plane crash

By LAURINDA KEYS

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Teams of workers coughing on forest fire smoke used vines to clamber up a jungle slope on the island of Sumatra yesterday to recover the remains of 234 people killed in Indonesia's worst air crash.

After more than 24 hours of probing the smoldering, ash-covered ground — their hands wrapped in cloth as protection from burns — rescuers had not found the flight recorders that could indicate whether the haze from hundreds of fires contributed to the disaster.

The Garuda Airlines plane, a 15-year-old twin-engine A300B-4 Airbus, crashed on Friday afternoon, local time, on a flight from Jakarta to the Sumatra island city of Medan, where fires set by plantation and timber company workers to clear land have been burning for months.

Before the recovery was suspended at sunset yesterday, the searchers ran out of plastic bags and had to use banana leaves, pieces of carpet, old clothing and bamboo vines to wrap body parts. They were transported in army trucks to two hospital morgues

in Medan, 32 kilometers east of the crash site.

Most of the bodies — thrown 200 meters by the force of the crash and explosion — were unrecognizable.

President Suharto ordered that unidentified bodies be buried in a mass grave at an air force cemetery in Medan tomorrow. Identified bodies would be handed back to their families.

"All passengers and crew on board the plane that crashed were killed," said Transportation Minister Haryanto Danutirto.

Most victims were Indonesian, and there were at least a score of foreigners.

A special team will search for the flight data and cockpit voice recorders once the recovery of bodies is completed, Haryanto said. The so-called "black boxes" will be instrumental in figuring out what downed the plane.

Stressing that the cause of the crash is still unknown, Haryanto ordered the Medan airport to remain closed last night "for the time being" to ensure no other aircraft are endangered. "The haze in Medan is getting thicker and visibility is only 300

meters," he said.

It was unclear what role visibility played in the crash. An airport official said that Medan is equipped with the more advanced glide-slope indicator that guides an incoming plane to the runway, not the old-fashioned, simple beacon.

The official said the plane had been on instrument approach for the airport's main runway, called 05, one of two at Medan. That would indicate the pilot was relying more on readings from instruments than on what he could see out the window.

No flights were allowed into Medan yesterday, delaying the arrival of specialists from the air plane's manufacturer, Airbus Industrie, as well as hundreds of mourning relatives.

More than 200 bodies have been recovered, but only 11 were identified by yesterday afternoon, the official Antara news agency reported.

Witnesses reported seeing the plane hit trees and explode, but some said the jet was in trouble — possibly with an engine afire — before it crashed. The site contained hundreds of tiny pieces of the plane, passengers' belongings, and small body

parts strewn in the black ash and mud amongst small flickering fires.

Ira Tarawaty, a farmer's wife from the nearby village of Buah Nabor, told Indonesian television, "I saw the wing of the plane hit a tree and fall off, and there was a fire." Farmer Daniel Ginting said he heard a loud explosion before the plane crashed and broke into pieces.

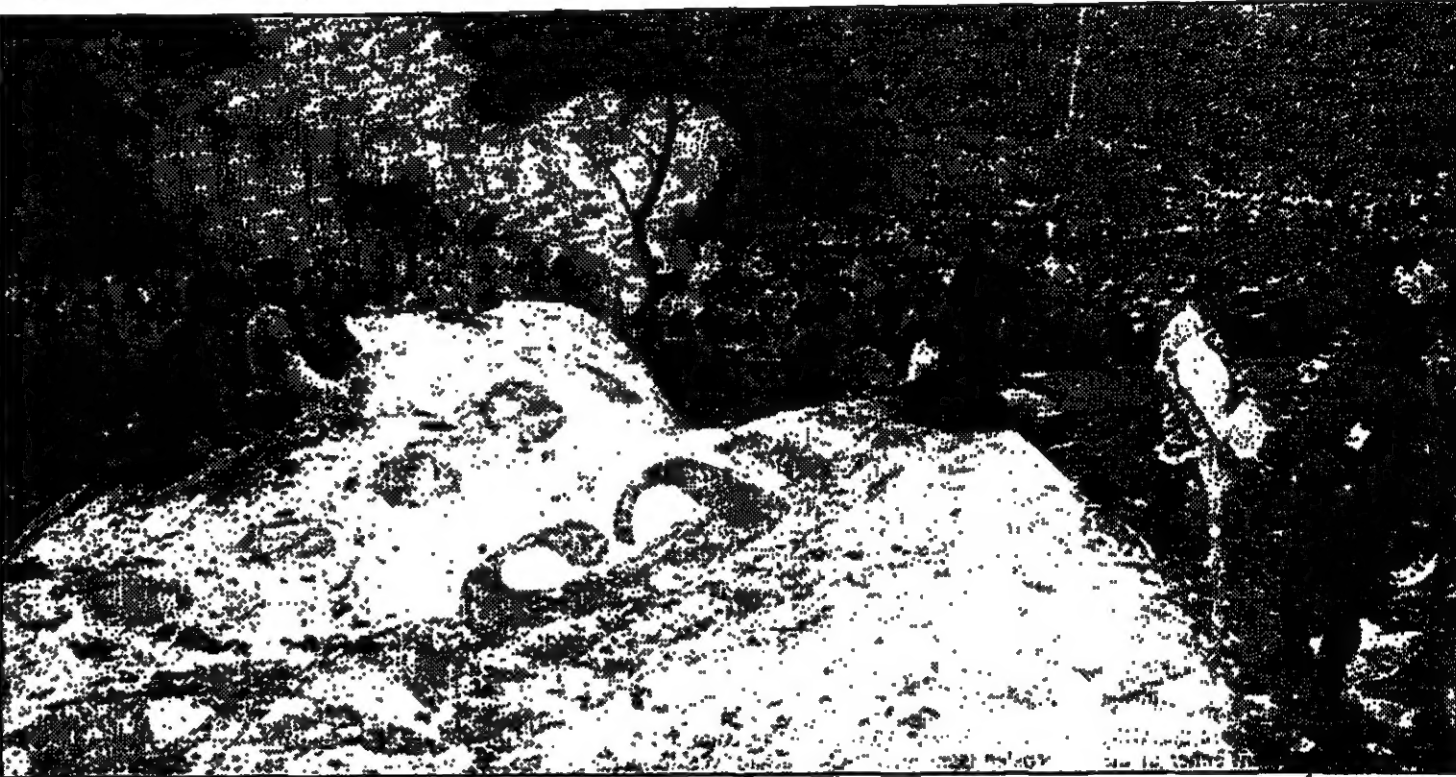
Six Japanese, three Germans, two Americans, a Dutch citizen and at least one Malaysian were among the passengers on board, the airline said.

The Jakarta newspaper, *Suara Pembaruan*, counted 21 foreigners aboard: two British, three French and one Belgian citizen. Six Taiwanese were also killed.

Garuda said the pilot, identified as Rachmo Wiyogo, 40, had worked for the airline for 20 years and had clocked 15,000 flying hours.

The official Antara news agency said the plane descended into the haze as it prepared to land at Medan.

The ash-filled smog — which has spread to Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Thailand and the Philippines — is caused by fires set to clear the land cheaply. The hundreds of blazes have burned fiercely for two months.



Rescuers look for bodies in the wreckage of the Garuda Airline A-300 Airbus that crashed Friday near Medan in northern Sumatra. None of the 234 passengers and crew aboard have survived. (Reuters)

Hong Kong schools ordered to switch from English to Chinese

HONG KONG (Reuters) — Hong Kong's Education Department has ordered schools to switch from teaching in English to Chinese from the next school year, starting September 1998.

Hong Kong, a predominantly Cantonese-speaking community and former British colony, returned to Chinese rule on July 1. Cantonese is one of many Chinese dialects.

In a statement obtained yesterday, the department said it would get tough on schools that

failed to comply. "The Director of Education has made it clear...she will consider where appropriate...administrative measures," an Education Department spokesman said.

Some of the measures mentioned included the end of benefits to support schools adopting mother-tongue teaching, the appointment of managers to schools that chose not to comply and changes of school sponsorship.

"We in the Education Department are firm in our resolve

to promote mother-tongue teaching for the benefit of our students. We look to schools, parents and our community for support and cooperation," the spokesman said.

Schools in the territory are governed by the Education Ordinance. Section 82 of the ordinance states that schoolmasters can be jailed and fined if they refuse to follow instructions, the *South China Morning Post* newspaper reported.

The Education Department was not available for comment.



MANPOWER BRANCH
Defense Service Law
(Consolidated Version) 1986

Order to Report for Registration at District Recruiting Offices

Male and female Israeli citizens and permanent residents, born between September 11, 1980 and April 4, 1981, both dates inclusive, must report for registration at their district recruiting office, in accordance with the Order to Report for Registration which they have received.

Men and women born between the above dates who have not received an Order to Report for Registration must register at 8:00 a.m., at one of the recruiting offices mentioned in Table A, on the date appropriate for their date of birth, as given in Table B.

TABLE A

- Jerusalem — Recruiting Office, 103 Rehov Rashi (Mekor Baruch)
- Tel Hashomer — Recruiting Office, Tel Hashomer IDF Base (near Kiron)
- Haifa — Recruiting Office, 12 Rehov Omar el-Khayam
- Beersheba — Recruiting Office, 22 Rehov Yed Vashem
- Tiberias — Recruiting Office, Rehov Nazrat

TABLE B

DATE OF BIRTH		DATE OF REGISTRATION	
BETWEEN	AND	MEN	WOMEN
September 11, 1980	September 25, 1980	November 2, 1997	November 30, 1997
September 26, 1980	October 10, 1980	November 3, 1997	December 1, 1997
October 11, 1980	October 25, 1980	November 4, 1997	December 2, 1997
October 26, 1980	November 8, 1980	November 5, 1997	December 3, 1997
November 9, 1980	November 23, 1980	November 6, 1997	December 4, 1997
November 24, 1980	December 7, 1980	November 8, 1997	December 7, 1997
December 8, 1980	December 22, 1980	November 10, 1997	December 8, 1997
December 23, 1980	January 5, 1981	November 11, 1997	December 9, 1997
January 6, 1981	January 20, 1981	November 12, 1997	December 10, 1997
January 21, 1981	February 4, 1981	November 13, 1997	December 14, 1997
February 5, 1981	February 19, 1981	November 16, 1997	December 15, 1997
February 20, 1981	March 6, 1981	November 17, 1997	December 16, 1997
March 7, 1981	March 21, 1981	November 23, 1997	December 17, 1997
March 22, 1981	April 4, 1981	November 24, 1997	December 18, 1997

Immigrants liable for Regular Army Service or Reserve Service

December 22, 1997

Male Israeli citizens and permanent residents, born between April 1, 1957 and April 4, 1981, and who immigrated to Israel before May 1, 1997, and who do not receive an Order to Report for Registration for service by December 14, 1997, must report at their nearest Recruiting Office on December 15, 1997, at 8:00 a.m.

Those reporting must appear on the date and at the time noted in the order they receive or, if they do not receive such an order, on the date noted above. It is strictly forbidden to come at a time other than that noted in the order, unless prior permission has been obtained from the officer in charge of the recruiting office. Those reporting should bring their identity card or registration slip they have received from the Ministry of the Interior, or their birth certificate. Immigrants should also bring their teudat oleh and passport.

A woman who is married, is the mother of a child, or is pregnant, and who does not have a certificate testifying that she is legally exempt from defense duty, is required to come to a recruiting office and to bring documents testifying to her personal and family status, in order that she may be issued a certificate exempting her from duty.

From the date of publication of this notice, anyone who is required to report and who wishes to go abroad must obtain a permit to do so from the commanding officer of a recruiting office.

Colonel Avi Zamir

Chief Recruiting Officer, Manpower Branch

October, 1997

NOTE: The complete text of the Order to Report for Registration will be published in Kovetz Hatakanot.

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Tuesday
Sept. 30

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Monday
Oct. 6

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We're going to spend a wonderful day in the Galilee seeing how the "staff of life" is prepared in different cultures. Kibbutz Harduf, organic and biodynamic, the ancient windmill in Nahal Zipori, Kiryat Ata's modern, industrial bakery, and then with the Beduin and researcher Steven Fulder on its meaning in our life.

NIS 230, including lunch

Tour guide: Yuval Avior

Sunday
Oct. 12

A WATERWALK WITH JOEL ROSKIN

Join geologist, geographer and well-known tour writer Joel Roskin on a fabulous waterwalk through Nahal Zalmon and the Jordan River canyon. Beginning at a Crusader castle, through streams and rivers, between green vegetation. Five hours of sheer delight.

NIS 165

Monday
Nov. 3

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When Rabbi Yitzhak Luria, known as the Ari, walked through Safed's narrow streets, not a day passed without a miracle. We join a local guide, an expert on the town, who reveals the special atmosphere, the unique tastes and smells, and tells us the tales we all want to hear.

NIS 210 including lunch

Tour guide: Israel Shalem

The tour price includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. Lunch as indicated. 10% discount when you book all four tours. Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand.

Reservations and further information:

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Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074.

Tel. 02-566-6231 (9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)

Ask for Michal, Vered or Varda.

Iran completes large military maneuvers

TEHERAN (AP) — Warplanes will refuel in air and troops will stage night ambushes in the final stage of Iran's largest military maneuvers, the state-run news agency reported yesterday.

More than 200,000 troops, hundreds of armored personnel carriers and dozens of warplanes have taken part in the exercises, which began earlier this month, the Islamic Republic News Agency said.

Top military officials will attend the culmination of the maneuvers today south of Teheran.

That exercise will involve 80 jet fighters, fighter bombers, cargo aircraft and more than 100 helicopters, the agency said.

Iran, one of the leading powers

in the Gulf, carries out dozens of military maneuvers each year. But the agency quoted military commanders as saying that these exercises, dubbed Zulfikar, were the biggest by Iran or any country in the Middle East.

Brig. Gen. Ahmad Fathi-Pour, an infantry commander, said that Iran's military might did not threaten any country. He said the message of the exercises was "peace and stability in the region."

The United States and Israel have declared that Iran poses a threat to the region and have accused it of engaging in a massive re-armament program that includes efforts to acquire nuclear weapons. Iran has said its nuclear program is peaceful.

RETURN TO BEIT SHEAN

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US, Russia sign arms pacts

By NORMAN KEMPSTER

UNITED NATIONS — US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov signed arms control agreements aimed at reducing nuclear danger and strengthening each nation's security.

In another step illustrating the new era of international relations, Primakov joined with members of NATO for the first meeting of a new group established to ease Moscow's fears about the impact of the organization's expansion. Albright said the joint council is intended to show that NATO, formed at the height of the Cold War, poses no threat to Russia.

The arms control agreements signed Friday after the meeting include a memorandum of understanding that clears the way for the United States to develop defenses against short-range ballistic missiles without violating the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

Also, the two countries extended the time period for concluding sharp cutbacks in US and Russian stockpiles of long-range nuclear missiles under the START II treaty. Under the accord, the deadline will be pushed from the beginning of the year 2003 until the end of 2007. The idea is to ease Russia's concerns over the cost of dismantling its weapons.

The START-II treaty, signed in 1993, calls for slashing US-Russian long-range nuclear arsenals by up to two-thirds.

President Clinton and Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin agreed in principle on the arms control measures during their summit in Helsinki in March. But it took negotiators six months to fill in the details and enable the pacts to be signed.

The most controversial of the measures modifies the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty to permit the development of systems to defend against short-range missiles such as the Russian SCUD. US officials said that all systems on Washington's drawing board would be permitted under the accord.

The original purpose of the ABM treaty was to prevent either of the nuclear superpowers from developing a defense so good that a country could afford to launch a first strike nuclear attack without fearing retaliation.

But since the ABM treaty was signed, scientists have devised defense systems against shorter range missiles of the sort used on battlefields. The latest agreement will allow both countries to proceed with developing defense systems for these missiles.

The NATO-Russia council was created in May as something of a consolation prize for Moscow following its failure to block NATO from expanding to include three of the former Soviet Union's Cold War allies — Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Addressing the first meeting of the organization, formally known as the NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council, Albright said: "My only slightly tongue-in-cheek hope is that Russia will come to be based with NATO. In other words, I hope and expect that Russia will come to know the real NATO for what it is, as neither a threat to Russia, nor as the answer to Russia's most pressing dilemmas." (Los Angeles Times)

Italy assesses damage after earthquake

By VANIA GRANDI

ASSISI, Italy (AP) — The followers of St. Francis lost two brothers and a refuge of peace. Art lovers saw irreparable harm to Italy's Renaissance riches. And Italians experienced yet another blow to their profound but delicate cultural fabric.

Yesterday was a day to assess and mourn the damage to the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi by two earthquakes that shook central Italy on Friday.

The tremors killed 10 in all, including a Franciscan friar and novice inside the basilica. They destroyed whole villages in the mountainous area, leaving several thousand people homeless.

The second jolt sent swaths of vaulted ceiling in the basilica's upper section plunging to the floor, completely destroying frescoes by early master Cimabue and others by followers of Giotto. A cycle depicting the life of the saint attributed by many to Giotto, a towering figure in Italian art, suffered cracks, and a one-meter-long fissure opened in the bell tower.

A religious space known to millions of tourists and pilgrims, what is perhaps Italy's most sacred place became the repository of one meter-high piles of rubble. Fine chalky dust obscured the remaining frescoes. The altar was crushed. Much of the complex of two levels plus monastery area were afflicted with cracks and broken masonry.

The damage to the basilica and other places holy to the friars who follow Francis's precepts of



A cloud of dust rises inside the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi after the ceiling went down following a major earthquake that struck central Italy on Friday, killing 10 people and injuring more than 100.

poverty, selflessness and humility was "for us like painful wounds," said Agostino Gardin, the order's worldwide head who visited the scene.

"These are in fact the places where we brothers can recreate the spiritual life of our father St. Francis and of St. Clare, the most

important and most significant places of our Franciscan family," he said.

He said October 4 celebrations of St. Francis's name day would be stripped down to the simplest form as an act of mourning.

Pope John Paul II had chosen the basilica twice as the site of

multi-faith prayer services for peace, and he too grieved.

At a spiritual gathering for Italian Roman Catholics in Bologna, the pope offered his condolences and "affectionate thoughts" to the quake victims.

The "enormous damage born by the artistic and religious patrimo-

ny, particularly the upper basilica of St. Francis ... was the cause of sadness" to him, John Paul said.

Restoration officials put the cost of restoration at the tens of millions of dollars, and the government immediately set aside \$29 for help to Assisi overall.

But there was plenty of good

will to match.

Offers of expertise came from the Louvre, the British Museum and National Gallery. Florence set aside half of its museum income over the next two weeks for basilica restoration funding.

A group of Italian restorers who earned their stripes working on the church's frescoes offered their services.

The earthquake damage was the latest disaster to hit Italy's cultural heritage. In recent years, fire heavily damaged Turin's cathedral, endangering the Shroud of Turin; Mafia car bombs lacerated Florence's Uffizi galleries and ancient churches in Rome; thieves regularly raid churches and ancient tombs; vandals damage public fountains by Renaissance masters.

But this time, Italy was "so heavily struck in its heart," Premier Romano Prodi said.

"It will be impossible to return the cathedral to its former state," said Antonio Paolucci, a former culture minister appointed to oversee the work.

Paolucci said the first thing to do is cover up fragments brought outside the basilica to protect frescoed sections from the rain. Then, experts must assess structural damage and come up with a reinforcement plan. Only then can restoration of the frescoes begin.

Some showed stoicism in the face of the damage.

"This probably happened before, and it's been repaired for 700 years, so I believe it will be repaired again," said the Rev. Simon Sauer, 67, of Louisville.

29 missing after two cargo vessels collide off Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Two cargo ships collided in the Strait of Malacca off the western coast of Malaysia in an area clouded by smoke from forest fires. Twenty-nine crew members were missing, officials said yesterday.

The Madras, India-registered *Vikraman*, a bulk carrier, and the *Mount I*, a cargo vessel registered in St. Vincent in the Caribbean, collided late Friday evening, said Roslee Mat Yusof, an officer at the Maritime Rescue Coordinating Center in Port Klang.

Roslee said investigators had yet to determine whether the thick smog that has shrouded the region was to blame. He said dozens of rescue ships were in the vicinity of the collision, about 9 kilometers south of Cape Rachado, one of the main lighthouses off Port Dickson about 120 kms. southwest of Kuala Lumpur.

The 29 missing crew members were all from the *Vikraman*, which sank. There were no casualties on board the *Mount I*. Officials earlier said 28 people were missing.

Malaysia's Deputy Transport Minister Ali Rustam, told the government-run news agency Bernama that five of the crew members of the *Vikraman* were rescued by a Thai merchant vessel, *N.V. Laemthong Glory*, and the Royal Malaysian Navy's *K.D. Lekir*, which picked up the distress call.

The five were named by the MRCC as Captain

Cartik Venghatraman, Second Engineer Kamaraju Panapala, Electrician S. Purushothaman, Radio Officer Vengkataraman Bharani and Neezima Panapala who is Kamaraju's wife.

A search-and-rescue operation had been mounted by the Navy, the Royal Malaysian Air Force, the Marine Police and the Marine Department, he said.

All said that the Marine Department had not determined the cause of the collision but he did not dismiss the possibility that the smog was a factor.

"In view of the haze situation, all vessels plying the Strait of Malacca should be more cautious," he said.

It was the second collision in the Strait of Malacca since hazardous levels of smog have blanketed Malaysia and other Southeast Asian nations in the last two months.

On September 20, two cargo vessels collided in the Strait, though there were no casualties or major damage reported.

Two weeks ago, the Meteorological Services Department issued a warning to all ships in the region to be careful in view of the smog.

"There have been a few other collisions during the haze situation ... but we're not confirming or saying that it's because of the haze," said Roslee.

The collision was some 425 kms. southeast of Medan, where an Indonesian jetliner carrying 234 people crashed Friday.



Labor dispute spills onto streets

Helmeted riot police detain a Korean worker at Kia Motors Corp. — one of 20 detained yesterday after the workers rained police with kicks, rocks and wood sticks, in protest against a court receivership plan that would put them out of jobs. In all 5,000 workers and activists protested. Kia Group, South Korea's eighth largest conglomerate, was declared near-bankrupt in July, with a \$10.7 billion debt. A two-month grace period on Kia's overdue loans expires tomorrow. (AP)

Clinton honors 9 blacks who entered Little Rock high school 40 years ago

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (AP) — In a powerful gesture of racial healing, President Bill Clinton pulled open the front door of Central High School and stood back to welcome nine blacks who had braved hate-filled mobs 40 years ago to break an all-white color barrier.

"What happened here changed the course of our country forever," Clinton said, recalling a racial drama that wrenched America and was seared in his

tory on television screens around the world.

"Forty years ago today, they climbed these steps, passed through this door and moved our nation. And for that we must all thank them," said Clinton. The audience — blacks and white together — roared approval.

But even as he commemorated an important, early victory of the civil rights movement, Clinton warned that American

schools are resegregating, opportunities for jobs and education remain unequal and affirmative action programs are being rolled back, "slamming shut the doors of higher education on a new generation."

"Segregation is no longer the law," Clinton said, "but too often separation is still the rule. And we cannot forget one stubborn fact that has not yet been said as clearly as it should: There is still discrimination in America."

"We have to keep working on it — not just with our voices but with our laws," the president said. "And we have to engage each other in it." Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, a Republican, also stirred the crowd, saying, "What happened here 40 years ago was simply wrong. It was evil. And we renounce it."

Clinton was 11 years old during the Little Rock crisis, attending segregated schools 80 kilometers away in Hot

Spring. "It was Little Rock that made racial equality a driving obsession in my life," he said.

The president, at a dinner Thursday night with military Medal of Honor winners, said, "Forty years ago something happened here that none of us who are native to this state are especially proud of." But he said the bravery of the nine students was "a moment of unique citizen heroism."

Klan member sentenced for 1975 bombing

SALEM, Virginia (AP) — An ailing 76-year-old man who once belonged to the Ku Klux Klan was sentenced to 12 years in prison for a racially motivated car bombing that killed a toddler 22 years ago.

Frank Helvestine pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter, arson and unlawful wounding. He was turned in by a son-in-law who said he wanted to clear his conscience.

Helvestine provided materials for a bomb that a fellow Klansman, who has since died,

used in 1975 to blow up the car of a white woman who was dating a black man. Shrapnel from the bomb killed 23-month-old Carrie Ann Mask and injured Barry Mask, who was walking his daughter past the car when it exploded.

"I'm certainly truly sorry that that ever happened," Helvestine told the judge in a soft voice Thursday as he put his shaking right hand on the defense table to steady himself.

Heart transplant patient climbs Mt. Whitney

MOUNT WHITNEY, California (AP) — Two years after her old heart gave out, Kelly Perkins put her new one to an amazing test by scaling the highest peak in the continental United States.

No other heart transplant patient is known to have climbed 4,188-meter Mount Whitney, a daunting trek for those with no health problems.

Perkins, a 36-year-old real estate appraiser, made the rugged, 25-kilometer hike over three days. Setting out Monday on the rocky, zigzagging trail, she reached the top on Tuesday, where she tearfully hugged her companions and blew bubbles to celebrate.

Dog gets bone tissue operation

SPRUCE GROVE, Alberta (Reuters) — Kal the rottweiler has a new leg up on life thanks to a new and relatively rare bone tissue transplant procedure for dogs.

The 10-year-old dog was up and about on Thursday, the day after the transplant in this Western Canadian town near Calgary. Kal's hind leg had been diagnosed with cancer. Kal's new bone tissue came from a golden retriever. His owners, Heather Hayes and Mike Kelliber, opted for the \$3,600 transplant because they feared amputation would put too much stress on his remaining, arthritic limbs.

"He's really a good dog. We think of him as a best friend and family member," Hayes said.

Date	Holiday	Working Hours - Freight Terminal				Working Hours - Passenger Terminal			
		Nitzana	Rafiah	Allenby	Na'ar Hayarden & Arrava	Rafiah	Allenby	Na'ar Hayarden & Arrava	Taba
Wed. 1.10.97	Eve of Rosh Hashana	08:00-11:00	Till 11:00	08:00-11:00	08:00-12:00	regular working hours			
Thur. 2.10.97	Rosh Hashana	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	regular working hours			
Fri. 3.10.97	Rosh Hashana	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	regular working hours			
Fri. 10.10.97	Eve of Yom Kippur	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	08:00-11:00	Till 11:00	08:00-12:00	Till 12:00
Sat. 11.10.97	Yom Kippur	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed till 21:00
Wed. 15.10.97	Eve of Succot	08:00-11:00	Till 11:00	08:00-11:00	08:00-12:00	regular working hours			
Thur. 16.10.97	Succot	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	regular working hours			
Wed. 22.10.97	Hoshana Rabba	08:00-11:00	Till 11:00	08:00-11:00	08:00-12:00	regular working hours			
Thur. 23.10.97	Succot	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	regular working hours			

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And man created darkness

A major earthquake in Italy, a killer cyclone in Bangladesh and, in a fog of polluting smoke, a plane disaster in Indonesia and a ship collision in Malaysia. It was a relentless weekend of disasters, and it becomes more obvious that the hand of mankind is creeping into some areas of nature where once only the hand of God could be perceived.

Of course earthquakes, volcanoes, tidal waves, meteors and the like, remain forces of nature beyond man's powers of prediction, let alone influence. But the forest fires that have blacked out much of south-east Asia are a different and disturbing matter, and the now perceptible changes in world weather patterns from year to year are alarm bells ringing ever louder on deaf ears.

The plane crash that killed 234 people came minutes after the pilot asked for ground assistance to navigate through the haze that has blanketed much of Malaysia, Indonesia and Borneo for more than a week after farmers set thousands of hectares of forest alight. In the smog-covered Strait of Malacca, 28 crew members were missing after two cargo ships collided on Friday — "because of the haze," said a rescue official. It was days after two other ships collided in the area, apparently for the same reason. In northern Malaysia six airports shut yesterday and residents were forced to take cover indoors. Malaysia Airlines said 81 flights to Malaysian cities, to Singapore and to Bangkok, were cancelled.

While the cause of the accidents must remain

open until the proper investigations are concluded, there is no denying that the haze pollution across all these nations has been the environmental story of the year. It is a warning that mankind has become absolutely reckless in mowing down all that nature seems to put in the way of progress.

Environmental and ecological lobbying has been dismissed too lightly far too long by responsible governments. They still tend to look on them as trendy hobbies for bored Western sentimentalists concerned about spotted owls and Siberian tigers. We already have had the scare of a depleting ozone layer above the earth, which at least managed to shock most governments into a ban on fluorocarbons.

Yet the same governments continue to evade warnings about global warming and the urgent need to slash production of greenhouse gases. Even in the midst of this clearly man-made crisis in Indonesia, where experts say up to 300,000 hectares are in flames, the government pointedly declared it a "natural" disaster. Such official denial only reinforces the perceived obtuseness of governments who continue to accept responsibility for the irresponsible conduct of slash-burn-and-pollute developers.

In the face of such denial of human responsibility for the rape of nature, it seemed peculiarly inappropriate for the Malaysian deputy prime minister to call on Moslem states to hold special prayers and ask God to put an end to the crisis. As Shakespeare observed, the fault lies not in the heavens, but in ourselves. We remain "arrant knaves."

Off the fence

The endless debate over the looming common currency for the European Union has taken an intriguing turn. There are signs that Britain is reconsidering its hitherto unyielding resistance to joining.

It has long been taken for granted that Britain would not be in the first-wave of those countries joining the EMU (European monetary union) in 1999. Among other historic and far-reaching measures, this will introduce a new coin, the euro, into European citizens' pockets — as well as into world markets to face off against the dollar and the yen. Under its old Conservative government, Britain long ago withdrew from the European exchange rate mechanism — the instruments that align currency values in preparation for eventual union.

However, the New Labour government of Tony Blair continues to defy opposition cynics who say its election campaign was all show and no substance. After just over four months in office, Blair has demonstrated not only considerable showmanship but considerable substance as well — and satisfied voters are still lapping it up. He has handed interest rate controls to the central bank, won two devolution

referendums in Scotland and Wales, brought the IRA to the peace table in Ulster — and then saved the floundering monarchy by masterfully managing the dangerously emotional funeral of Princess Diana.

Now it appears Labour is thinking that it remain outside the EMU for an indefinite period would simply deny Britain its voice in the hugely powerful processes setting EU common currency policy. This is right — a vacant seat on a future European Central Bank will not bring Britain any influence on monetary policy or other vital EU issues.

If it is true that Blair is edging towards joining the first wave going into EMU — he is to be applauded and encouraged. A Europe without a powerful British voice on key issues is an emasculated Europe — a timid union forever looking over its shoulder to wonder what the Anglo-Saxons think. Labor-run, but economically successful, Britain is now the ideal catalyst to help remodel an EU economic philosophy which hovers between the over-protective policies of France and Germany, and the at times over-harsh, rampant capitalism of the United States.



Peace inactivity

DAVID NEWMAN

Shimon Peres announced the setting up of a new peace organization last week. It is not yet clear whether this is meant to be the founding of a new political party, as an alternative to the actionless Labor Party, or whether this will be another research center whose objective is to heighten awareness of the real benefits that peace can bring to both Israel and her neighbors.

The Netanyahu administration has been lucky over the past 18 months. Its destruction of the Oslo process has not been met with any significant opposition from the Left. The pro-peace movements and political parties have remained inactive, strangely silent, since losing power in May 1996.

True, they have not been helped by Hamas. It is very difficult to persuade people that peace is a good thing when bombs are going off. And this is cleverly manipulated by Benjamin Netanyahu, who wastes no opportunity to blame the Oslo Accords for the devastation.

But the fact remains that the Left has not provided any form of opposition since it was voted out of office. It continues to behave as though it is really in power, so they could continue to disseminate their anti-Oslo message. It is the year's events, the Voice of Peace, has not reopened. The message remains limited to the occasional mass demonstration on a Saturday evening in Tel Aviv, the last of which had to be moved to the square outside Tel Aviv Museum for fear it would not attract enough people to even partially fill Kikar Rabin. And this at a time when the peace process had sunk to one of the lowest points since the beginning of the Oslo process in 1993.

Contrast this with the behavior of the right wing, especially the settler movement. It continues to act as though it is in opposition, despite its close links with the government. It does not take anything for granted. It continually brings pressure to bear on the government through settlement expansion and land purchases. It continues to display the blind ide-

ological commitment to its cause that it displayed during the Rabin-Peres administration. It remains on guard and will continue to do everything to ensure that the Oslo process is finally dead and buried. Take Arutz 7 as an example. When the Labor Party came to power in 1992 and commenced the Oslo process, Abie Nathan decided to close his Voice of Peace radio station. There was, he

Labor Party should be given time to reorganize. Once the party elected its new leader, so we argued, we would see a real opposition. But it is now three months since the election of Ehud Barak, and Labor remains invisible. Barak is too concerned with ensuring that his security image is not tainted to actively oppose the government which, in turn, very cleverly uses the security argument to silence the opposition.

The Left just does not seem as committed to its cause as the right. It does not seem to understand that the current situation, they are in no danger of facing any significant shift in the public mood against their policies. At most, opposition is expressed in the academic cafes and through lengthy discussions in cyberspace. This is the dialogue of the few, the elite, the committed talking to the converted. It represents no real opposition to the government, certainly nothing comparable to the intensity of Zo Artzenu or the Women in Green.

It is the beginning of a new year, a time when we pause for reflection over our deeds of the past year and what we can do to change things during the coming year. The Left needs to decide to regain the political initiative, to undertake concerted action to save what little is left of the peace process. Now is the time, for if it is not already too late, then surely it soon will be.

The writer is professor of political geography and director of the Humphrey Institute for Social Research at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

AT first, we believed that the

Excessive UK mourning

ANNE APPLEBAUM

The scene is a London cocktail party, not long after the funeral of Princess Diana. On the surface, all is as it should be: There are canapés, cruettes and champagne, men in suits, a speech from the man whose birthday it is. But if you had watched the mournful crowds laying flowers at Kensington Palace, the conversation might strike you as somewhat odd.

"Wasn't it ghastly," one guest says to another. (He means the funeral, not the accident.) "The British press at its worst," the other agrees. (He means the adulation granted posthumously to Diana, not the paparazzi who chased her during the last month of her life.) A former government minister lowers his voice when speaking. "I don't want to say it too loudly," he explains, "but I think Charles Spencer should be horse-whipped back to South Africa." He was referring to the funeral oration made by Princess Diana's brother, during which Lord Spencer implied that the Spencer family was better suited than the Royal Family to raise the princess's sons.

Given that Spencer lives abroad, has hardly spent much time with the young princes' over the past few years and has not had the most tranquil of private lives, the former government minister thought this a bit rich.

But then, so did many other people. You could have had a similar conversation anywhere in Britain since the accident, in a restaurant, over the telephone, at a dinner party — anywhere, that is, except in public.

No one spoke critically of the princess or her brother on the television news. On the contrary, all of the very un-British talk was of the "nation mourning" or of what the "people" felt about the "people's princess." Not many newspapers dared criticize the motives of those laying flowers, either. Stiff upper lips slackened, as editors fell over one another to see who could contribute more money to the charity fund now set up in the princess's honor in between printing long, saccharine interviews with people who slept on sidewalks for two days so they could see the funeral.

Certainly no politicians have complained publicly about the manner in which events have unfolded, not even when the frequently unfair press criticism of the Queen or Prince Charles got dangerously out of hand.

SOMETHING much worse, or certainly much more powerful, than political correctness has taken hold of the British media and the British political elite: paralyzing fear of saying anything negative about Diana, or the people publicly

It is possible to respect the princess's good works yet not delude oneself into believing that she was something that she was not.

mourning Diana, or the ideas of the people publicly mourning Diana.

Do not be misled by television or the British press. The great 19th-century British prime minister Benjamin Disraeli once spoke of Britain as a country of "two nations," by which he meant the rich and the poor. Britain once again feels like two nations: those who are still weeping in public, and those who quietly find the public weeping extremely hard to take.

How to explain the divide? I thought at first that it had to do with access to information about Princess Diana. Anyone who worked on a newspaper knew, for example, that she courted publicity when it was in her interest to do so, and dealt happily with the royal correspondents of tabloids when she desired their attention. Equally, anyone who had access to old clipping files could easily find the less-flattering stories — about how the princess had, for example, dissociated herself from

most of her charities a few years ago, in most cases by sending a terse fax. But plenty of people without any special access to Diana felt the same way. At least one banker friend announced that he and his other banker friends had been supporting another's skepticism by e-mail: frequent messaging, he explained, made them feel less isolated amid the general public upsurge.

This being Britain, I then assumed the divide must be a class thing. The working classes were mourning the lost fairy-tale princess. The higher reaches of society, particularly, again, those who knew her or knew someone who knew her, were less likely to describe her as "England's Mother Teresa." That was until I got into a taxi the day before the funeral.

"Going out of town this week-end?" asked the driver.

"No," I said. "I sure wish I was," he said emphatically. Far from submitting to the general mood of grief, as one would expect during what was described as a "national crisis," he began complaining bitterly about traffic.

Perhaps, then, it was a Left/Right, Labor/Tory divide? Not quite. It is true that committed monarchists took the Queen's side after the anger against her. And the traditionalist Prince Charles camp always disliked the more "modern" Princess of Wales.

But it is also the case that many of my left-wing anti-monarchist friends have felt less than pleased about the events. "I thought we were a liberal democracy," fumed one of them, "not a mob dictatorship." The division probably cannot be explained sociologically. I suspect it comes down to a question of character. Some people want to invent a saint; some people do not. Along with the banker and the taxi driver, I think it is possible to respect the princess's good works, to feel sad that a young woman died violently, yet not to delude oneself into believing that she was something that she was not. (The Sunday Telegraph)

Spiritual stock-taking

DAVID WEINBERG

How does a Jew do *heshbon nefesh*? Beat his breast and repent for his sins? No. He reaches over to the guy sitting nearby and hits him on the chest.

Finding fault with others is something that politicians, journalists, columnists and others do all year long. Self-criticism, of course, is harder, requiring humility and honesty. Spiritual stock-taking, one level yet higher, is almost non-existent. It's a challenge our society has elected to neglect.

It is a positive commandment to petition the heavens and to blow trumpets following any misfortune that may befall the public," writes Maimonides. "This is the way of repentance....to recognize that adversity results from our wicked ways....It is brutish to discount tragedies as natural or random events," warns the Jewish philosophical giant.

So, it's incumbent on us to seek deeper meaning for all that happens around us, to improve ourselves and beseech God for relief.

After a year of national tragedies galore what is our conclusion? The Western Wall Tunnel riots, helicopter calamity, murdered schoolgirls in Naharayim, Lebanon commando catastrophe, and the Apropo, Mahaneh Yehuda and Ben-Yehuda bombings — did all this happen only as a result of nefarious or poor policy (Arafat's, Assad's or Netanyahu's)?

Is the sum total of our analysis merely military or diplomatic — crack down on Arafat, dump Bibi, or withdraw from Lebanon? Is there no level of meaning beyond the prosaic political calculus?

Throughout our history, Jews have always thought there was God keeping a moral scorecard. What we do individually, how we speak and how we act — to our neighbors, co-workers, family, Jews of different religious stripes, even our political rivals — affects what happens to us on the national level.

Unfortunately, our capacity for such ethereal reflection, and willingness as a people to contemplate God's hand in history, has been dulled. Perhaps technological society is to blame; there's too

Is there no level of meaning beyond the prosaic political calculus?

much sensory noise, too much media and information, not enough time or mental space to think. Perhaps we simply don't believe in much anymore, aside from personal fulfillment. Perhaps we lack spiritual leadership. In the Rosh Hashana prayers we repeat for the sin of "confusion of the heart" (*amhan laivay*). This is confusion that stems from inadequate perspective; from not making the effort to reach beyond the commonplace and consider the macro in an ethical/religious context.

Let's not rule out the possibility that we can spiritually navigate ourselves out of the current national troubles. More refined use of language in public discourse, just a little less hacking at each other politically, a touch more tolerance in education, less public promiscuity, more honesty in business and increased philanthropy, a crackdown on crime (look at all the murders), fairer distribution of the national burden (army service by all), more concern for the widow, orphan and unemployed, some reverence for heritage — all this might go a long way in ameliorating the misery that heaven decreed upon us.

Unlike some arrogant clerics and idiotic soothsayers, we cannot decisively ascertain why things happen or for what purpose. We can only seek respite by refining ourselves, in the hope that God will take notice and reward our catharsis.

Engagement is the key. The process of self-improvement and searching for God, itself constitutes recognition that there is a Divine guiding hand in our lives, and the appeal for His guidance is intrinsically beneficial. At the least, we can ethically improve our communities and society.

And for the hard-core believer, I've got a philosophical adage to consider. Why the redundancy in wishing each other a "good and sweet" new year? By definition, everything that God does is for the good, even if we don't always experience it that way. Answer: our additional prayer is that His decisions also will be felt and understood by us as beneficial. If we can only embrace this verity, difficult as the times are, perhaps we'll merit mitigation of the hardships and renewed sweetness. Amen.

The writer comments on current affairs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MORAL EQUIVALENCE

Sir, — Jews moving into a legally purchased and lead home in our capital of Jerusalem constitutes provocation according to the Arabs and left-wing Israelis; this "provocation" justifies the next wave of terrorism against innocent Israelis.

Blow up innocent Israelis; no one calls this a "provocation" and therefore, we are not justified, in the world's eyes, in imposing a closure which, at least temporarily, helps ensure protection of Israeli citizens, Jews and Arabs alike.

Israel's closures are called "collective punishment" and world pressure weakens our resolve to protect our citizens,

causing us to impose and lift, impose and lift.

Arabs terrorists murdering innocent Israeli men, women and children for the actions of a few has never been referred to as collective punishment.

To echo the words of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, there can be no moral equivalence between building homes and terrorist attacks. Would that our leaders begin to realize that terrorist attacks are not "caused" by something Israel does, they occur because that is the terrorist agenda.

SHOSHANA WEINSTEIN
Kfar Adumim.

THE REAL PRIME MINISTER

Sir, — Will the real prime minister of Israel please stand up, so that the people can see who it is that is governing this country.

Is it Benjamin Netanyahu, with his fumbling attempts to move from one clumsily managed crisis to the next? Or is it a rich American Jew, not even residing in Israel, who in keeping with today's fashion, seems drunk on religious fanaticism and feels he has the right to dictate government policy, whatever the cost to the people of Israel?

I, for one, would really like to know.

Jerusalem. MITZI KLEIN

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On September 28, 1937, The Palestine Post reported the assassination of Lewis Yelland Andrews, Galilee District Commissioner, shot dead together with his police escort, Constable Peter Evans, by four Arab terrorists on the threshold of Christ Church at Nazareth.

A distinguished gathering of authors, scholars and publishers were present at the Talpiot Hotel in Tel Aviv to celebrate the completion of the first Hebrew encyclopedia.

The completion of a new Jaffa-Haifa highway was celebrated near Zichron Ya'acov.

50 years ago: On September 28, 1947, The Palestine Post reported that in a long-awaited British statement on Palestine policy, Arthur Creech Jones, the Colonial Secretary, told the 55-nation Special Palestine

Committee of the UN that his country would not implement by itself or probably with other nations jointly, any UN solution which is not agreeable to both Jews and Arabs. He announced Britain's intention to abandon the 25-year-old Mandate over Palestine and to pull out her military and Government forces in the area "at an early date."

One man was killed and at least 10 wounded when 446 "illegal" immigrants were intercepted by the British Navy when they tried to reach the shores of Palestine aboard a small landing craft which they named *Af Al Pi Khen* — "In spite of it all." They were deported to Cyprus.

Cholera epidemics spread was reported north of Cairo.

More houses were seized by the government in Jerusalem.

25 years ago: On September

28, 1972, The Jerusalem Post reported that according to Aharon Yariv, chief of army intelligence, 12 Soviet Antonov planes had so far landed in Damascus as part of the airlift of Russian arms to Syria.

The Russians were taking no pains to hide their new involvement in Syria — in fact they were making a great effort to play it up in an attempt to strengthen their position following their ouster from Egypt.

Beirut reported that arms supplies to Syria included weapons for the terrorists stationed in both Lebanon and Syria.

Deputy premier Yigal Allon said that even under the most moderate and selective settlement plan, there are now wide open areas expecting Jewish settlement on a scale not smaller than during the 30 years of the Mandate.

Alexander Zvielli

BOOK REVIEW

Hunting killers with the Los Angeles police

By JEROME H. SKOLNICK

THE KILLING SEASON: A Summer Inside an LAPD Homicide Division by Miles Corwin. New York: Simon & Schuster. 336 pp. \$23.

Imagine a buddy movie: A veteran homicide detective, parents Lithuanian-born, Venezuelan boyhood, perfect Spanish speaker, male, white, teams up with rookie homicide detective, female, black, to investigate killings in her home turf, South-Central Los Angeles. No romance, they're partners.

He favors Western boots, chews and spits tobacco, looks like a grizzled cowboy. Has been working South-Central for 15 years. Hopes to maintain a third marriage despite middle-of-the-night homicide calls.

Huge backlog of cases, always under pressure, always behind, hates paperwork, can't use computer. Is shrewdest, sharpest-eyed crime scene investigator in South-Central. Near burnout, never succumbs. Also a hunter. Dreams of lives for, annual fall trip to Wyoming - at the end of the killing season. During those weeks bathes but once.

"It must be a guy's thing," she says of the joy he takes stalking and shooting deer, camping in the woods, not bathing. She wears silk stockings, designer jackets, skirts, slacks, boots. Fastidious, great at paperwork, computer. But is no polite secretary or sugary pushover.

Tall, strong. Won Police Olympics women's power-lifting championship. Decked a wise-guy gangbanger, broke his nose. Fixes a large drawing of black cat on her desk. Underneath, a sign in big block letters: "I HAVE PMS AND A 9-MILLIMETER HANDGUN WITH 16 ROUNDS. ANY QUESTIONS?"

The Killing Season is indeed a grab-you-by-the-throat page turner, but it's also a serious book for those who want to comprehend the disheartening dilemmas contemporary inner-city crime poses for law enforcement and the rest of us.

Pete Razanskas and Marcella

Winn are the main detectives Miles Corwin shadowed for his reportage on a summer spent with the Los Angeles Police Department's South-Central Homicide Division.

Detectives assigned to that division investigate ever more violent and impersonal inner-city murders. Homicide patterns (according to a 1993 FBI study) have shifted dramatically. In the past, most were committed by a spouse, a family member, a friend, an acquaintance.

Domestic cases are most easily cleared by the police. But by the early 1990s, for the first time, more than half the American homicides were committed by strangers or unknown persons.

THE South-Central killings investigated by Razanskas and Winn were mostly of that kind: drug-related hits, drive-by shootings, homicides committed during a robbery, bodies dumped away from the place of death. Crimes that used to be simple robberies or car thefts end up as "senseless" killings. The more "senseless" a killing, that is, the less rational the link between the motive and the killing of a compliant victim, the harder it is to solve.

Because the detectives Corwin followed are so hard-working and professional, *The Killing Season* is the best advertisement the LAPD has had in a long time. The videotaped beating of Rodney King shattered whatever positive image the department had. And the shards of the icon were crushed by the perjured testimony of Mark Fuhrman and the mistakes of the LAPD crime lab in the O.J. Simpson case.

Corwin's intelligent, empathetic and in-depth observations, conducted from March to October 1993, offer rare insights into real and dedicated police who undertake a tough, grinding assignment. They are neither unforgivingly polite nor mistake-free.

Their work is so demanding and psychologically draining, I found myself wondering how they manage it. Razanskas, who lives in a zone of interrupted sleep and bodies, does it by maintaining a sense of humor. He is a relentless kiddier.

When a new coroner's investigator arrives at a killing scene, Razanskas takes him aside and tells him he's not supposed to be there, that there's a new policy. "Didn't anyone tell you?" he asks. The coroner's man shakes his head.

"You don't have to come to the scenes anymore. We just toss the bodies in our trunk and we bring 'em to you." The investigator finally gets the joke.

Razanskas and Winn can be crabby and difficult, exhausted by middle-of-the-night calls. On an ordinary day, Razanskas awakens at 4:30 a.m. to commute to the office by 6 a.m.

Since homicides can happen any time, when they are on call the phone often rings at 2 or 3 in the morning, disturbing the few hours allotted to sleep. As for fun, entertainment and family life, these take second place.

These two cops know the law and test its limits. Sometimes, to gain incriminating admissions, they bully suspects a bit, sometimes, they trick them. The law allows police to lie to suspects about evidence.

RAZANSKAS remains in his draining South-Central assignment out of an ego fueled by professionalism; South-Central is the biggest challenge a homicide detective can face.

Winn works there because she hates what the gangbangers are doing to her community. She is incensed when a teenage gangbanger robs a hard-working, 24-year-old man of \$10 in front of his child, then coldbloodedly kills him.

"I don't care what it takes," Winn says. "I want the little bastard who did this off the streets."

Corwin, who is a reporter for the *Los Angeles Times*, says he was moved to write the book when he spent a single night in South-Central following a detective around to learn about the changing nature of homicide in the city. He was astonished and appalled by the three killings he learned about, all within three hours, within one square mile. And he was impressed by the willingness of South-Central relatives, usually ignored by the news media, to talk to a reporter.

He maintains that although there is a great clamor about the media's overemphasis on crime news, South-Central's crime is underreported and that it's always been that way. As a result, crimes against the poor and people of color receive less attention from the public and the police than is warranted.

Still, one has to question how much difference more pressure will make. Much as I found the detectives to be admirable human beings, the victims and their families compelling and Corwin's reportage laced with verisimilitude, I also found myself depressed at the futility of the work of the detectives. Most of the killers are kids who never had much of a chance in life, and even when apprehended, prosecuted and punished, they will surely be replaced by others.

(Los Angeles Times)

EARTHLY CONCERNS



The usual - hazardous - method of detection is prodding the earth with a stick.

(IDF photo)

Solutions for land mines only scratch the surface

By DYORA BEN SHAUL

Although this column has dealt with the issue of land mines for several years, it is only recently, mostly due to the interest of the late Princess Diana, that the public has begun to pay attention to this serious problem.

There are 110 million land mines buried in 64 countries. Most are in places where the original hostilities that caused them to be planted are long over. Every year 12,000 people lose their lives to these abandoned mines and another 400,000 to 500,000 lose limbs. The majority of the victims were not even born when the mines were placed.

Up until now, the grimmest part of the picture has been that even if

international organizations succeeded in getting the nations of the world to declare a moratorium on new mines, it would take at least 30 years to clear away the ones already in place.

Little progress has been made in detecting and removing these deadly devices. The usual method is to prod the earth with a stick to locate them.

Needless to say, this procedure is extremely hazardous and there are few volunteers. Other means have been tried, such as sniffer dogs, with relative success.

The use of X-rays is not practical because they require an enormous amount of power, and the fields where the mines are located are generally far from power lines. Ground radar is somewhat useful,

but rocks in the soil give false readings, resulting in wasted hours of digging.

But a new technique being developed in New Zealand shows the first real ray of hope. The solution lies in the microwave. Since microwaves heat only organic material, fields under experiment are being screened with microwaves.

The soil-containing organic material heats up, while the plastic mines show up as cold spots on the infrared monitor. To rule out rock formations, tests are done after rainfall or after wetting the soil with water jets. The water carries enough organic material into the porosities of the rocks to make them heat up.

Although the technique is still

under experimentation at the University of Auckland, researchers say there are only a few "bugs" to work out before large-scale trials are possible.

The beauty of the system is that it is inexpensive. A complete kit will cost about \$1,000. And it is so simple to implement that operators will need only a few hours of instruction. If it works, it will save many lives and prevent countless injuries.

However, new land mines are still being planted. They are effective, inexpensive, and may be deployed by totally unskilled personnel. To make matters worse, a number of countries are refusing to join in outlawing land mines in the future. Among them are the United States and Israel.

Medieval Cairo collapsing amid urban squalor

By LOUIS MEXLER

Sewer water creeps several meters up the limestone walls of the 700-year-old Islamic school, eroding the precious inscriptions adorning one of Cairo's architectural jewels.

Fissures as deep as 5 centimeters scar the walls of the building. Flakes fall from the stone blocks when they are merely tapped with a pen.

The remnants of medieval Cairo, once the seat of an empire stretch-

ing from Sudan to Syria, are crumbling, victims of a leaky sewer system, rumbling traffic and choking pollution.

"In 20 years' time there will not be a single minaret standing," warns Costante Muzio of the United Nations Development Program.

The UN is preparing a rescue plan for critical areas of the city. The Egyptian government, along with teams from the US and Germany, is working to save specific treasures. But even those

involved in the effort admit the task is overwhelming.

Medhat Menabawy, the official in charge of antiquities in northern Cairo, has a short answer when asked if all 200 monuments in his area can be saved: "Impossible!"

He said the government has set aside \$9 million to restore mosques, schools and tombs in his district, once a center of the medieval city.

That covers only 13 monuments in the northern area, which holds one-third of Cairo's Islamic architectural treasures.

For the most part, the government has focused its efforts on preserving the treasures of Egypt's pharaonic era - which draw thousands of tourists daily - while the remnants of what was once a great medieval city turn to dust.

More than 600 years ago, the famous Arab traveler Ibn Battuta described Cairo as the "mother of cities," boundless in the multitude of buildings, peerless in beauty and splendor. That endorsement must be preserved, Menabawy said. "It is not only our heritage. It is the world's heritage."

The dangers confronting medieval buildings are largely the problems plaguing the rest of the overcrowded metropolis of 16 million people.

The exploding population has overwhelmed Cairo's antiquated sewer system. It leaks contaminated water that is sucked up by the mortar between the limestone bricks that form the foundations of many medieval buildings.

Trucks and buses rumbling through the city cause vibrations that damage the monuments. Pollution from factories and cars leaves a layer of grime on almost everything, eroding the delicate inscriptions on many of the monuments.

"The damage has accelerated

enormously in just the past three or four years," says John Rodenbeck, head of the Society for the Preservation of the Architectural Resources of Egypt.

In the heart of what is left of one of the most intact medieval cities in the world, hostels, mosques, Islamic schools and bath houses are crumbling.

The damage is apparent at one of the most important medieval treasures, a complex built by Sultan Qalawun, who rose from slavery to found a dynasty that ruled Egypt for a hundred years in the 13th and 14th centuries.

Some of the arched vaults at the Qalawun school have cracks a meter long.

In the sultan's tomb, the brown, red and white geometric mosaics on some of the walls are buckling so badly they make a hollow sound when tapped. A few are covered with white gauze to prevent pieces from falling.

At the Sultan al-Nasir Mohammed school, built by Qalawun's son, gray grime covers the Gothic portal that medieval Muslim warriors brought from a Crusader church and later used as the entrance to the school.

The Qalawun complex, at least, is being rescued. Menabawy said the project began in July and should be completed in 2 1/2 years.

The United Nations says a broader, coordinated effort is needed to save much more of the Islamic city, which Muzio estimates would cost tens of millions of dollars.

"We are talking of fixing an area of the city that includes 2 million people," he says.

UN officials are expected to present a rescue plan for Islamic Cairo to Egypt by year's end. Even if it is approved, the UN would then have to appeal for funds from international donors, many of whom face their own tight budgets. (AP)

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1997 - 1998

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New first-aid book to the rescue

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Of all the unsung heroes in a society, among the most laudable are the paramedics, doctors, nurses and voluntary laymen whose split-second judgment and expertise often save people's lives. Be they injured in traffic accidents, terror attacks, falls, or endangered by a heart attack or some other acute ailment, their future hangs in the balance.

While defibrillators, plastic airway tubes and resuscitation masks are essential in any ambulance, basic knowledge – knowing what to do and what not to do – is often more important than state-of-the-art equipment in emergency situations.

Dr. Yoel Donchin and Natan Kudinski have produced an impressive 327-page book that encompasses the latest information and techniques in the field. Entitled *Ezra Rishona Lehatzalat Haim* ("Saving Life with First Aid") and published by the Ministry of Defense, the Hebrew-language textbook includes a number of anatomical charts and 3-D illustrations.

The most striking are the numerous color photographs, some of them taken by doctors on the job. The pictures are so gory that a layman would avert his gaze. There's a photo of a man with a metal cable thrust through his neck; a head gashed by a hatchet; an injured woman with an incredibly swollen tongue and victims of burns, gunshot wounds and bicycle injuries. One can't avoid photographs of a bus plunged into a wadi or the aftermath of a bus bombing, which have become an all-too-frequent part of the Israeli experience. The

photographs were not published to shock, however, but to serve as an educational illustration of the work at hand.

Donchin, an emergency-medicine specialist at the Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem and the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Medicine, teamed up with Kudinski, director of the training department at Magen David Adom.

A professional committee from the Israel Defense Forces' Medical Corps supervised the project, and some two dozen other experts helped with the book's preparation. It is on sale for NIS 79 at bookstores. Kudinski hopes it will be widely read. The Defense Ministry is considering translating it into English and Arabic as well.

The advice in the book is as useful on the battlefield as it is on the roads. In fact, some of the information is the result of dozens of analyses of military incidents in which soldiers were wounded and treated onsite. Outgoing chief medical officer Dr. Yehoshua Shemer dedicates the book to medical corps staffers who died while trying to save the lives of fellow soldiers.

The first Hebrew-language first-aid manual was produced in 1931 by *Harefuah*, the journal of the Israel Medical Association. The thin 76-page handbook was written by Dr. D.A. Friedman, based on lectures by senior Tel Aviv surgeon Dr. Arye Alotin. Soon after, in 1936, a much more comprehensive first-aid book came out, this time the work of Dr. A. Levy, head of the public health education department at the Hadassah clinic. The IDF issued a large book in 1949 that focused on battlefield

injuries. The latest first-aid "bible" before the current one was published in 1989 by the Center for Educational Technology and the IDF Medical Corps. It was written by Ilan Yeshua.

The new, user-friendly textbook – the result of two years of work – appears with the most up-to-date medical information, including the latest guidelines on handling trauma set down by the American College for Life Support and the American College of Surgeons.

Although primarily aimed at those who provide first aid on a daily basis, the average person could gain much from reading it as well.

Anyone trained in first aid must be a kind of detective, the authors note. They must immediately look at the circumstances of the injury, as the small details can offer clues about internal injuries. For example, if the dashboard of a car is smashed, one should look at the wrists and knees of the victims, which probably crashed into it. If a passenger or driver was pulled from a burning vehicle, one should check the lungs for smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning. If a car hit something with great force, internal organs such as the liver, spleen or aorta – which are held in place with tissue – can rupture due to the sudden impact. When an adult is hit by a car, the hips and knees are usually the first to be hit by the bumper, while in children it's the chest and abdomen.

Although it's a very serious subject, the authors permit themselves to inject a bit of humor, such as the following: When dealing with a motorcycle accident, tell the cyclist anything – including that all his bones are broken – but assure him that his bike is in one piece!



Paramedics, doctors and nurses must be 'detectives' searching for the small clues that point to internal injuries.

A good way to remember the order of examining a victim, say the authors, is to follow the first five letters of the alphabet: A (airways open); B (breathing); C (circulation); D (disability); and E (exposure, in which one undresses the victim to look for hidden injuries). After these five steps are dealt with, the rescuer can check

secondary signs: Are the pupils of equal size? Can the mouth be opened easily? Are any ribs broken? Is the person in pain? The authors advise profession-

als to take detailed notes when filling out forms on the scene, as even the smallest bits of evidence can be very important in treating the patient.

Shock gets a chapter of its own. This refers to a serious injury of the body systems that results from a disruption in blood circulation. Within a short time, shock can shut down vital organs such as the kidneys, brain and heart. If not treated in time, the patient will die. A detailed chart is helpful in diagnosing shock and the relevant stage, from I to IV.

There are also separate chapters for skeletal and abdominal injuries, burns from chemicals and fires, climatic (heat and cold) injuries, diving accidents and chemical warfare (with illustrations of the gas masks we know so well from the Gulf war).

Treating children gets special mention. Not just because youngsters have less than half the amount of blood as adults, but because identifying trauma in babies and children requires special attention.

Noting that the Hebrew word for "medic" is *hoveh*, which means binding with bandages, the book describes various techniques of ministering to victims with broken bones. Dramatic photos of a baby being born highlight the section on delivering a newborn.

Treating insect and snake bites is not overlooked. Neither are photos of silicone ear and nose implants.

The volume appropriately concludes with injuries that are not physical: emotional crises, including post-traumatic stress disorder, to which medics and other professionals exposed to the horrific side of life are certainly not immune.

Will Dubek be coughing up compensation?

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Like many other Israelis, Haim Ezri started smoking when he was drafted – influenced by tobacco ads that depicted smokers as fearless machos. By the time he was discharged from the Israel Defense Forces in 1972, Ezri was puffing on 80 Royal and Time cigarettes a day.

When Ezri's health deteriorated, he launched a long strike several years ago, Ezri was so desperate that he forced his way into the office of the manager of the cigarette factory, pleading for a new supply. The manager finally gave in, selling him two boxes with 50 packs each.

In 1988, Ezri complained to his doctors about recurring throat infections and hoarseness. They urged him to quit smoking, but he said he had become addicted to nicotine. Five years ago, he was diagnosed with laryngeal cancer. After radiation treatment he is unable to work regularly. Married and the father of three, the 46-year-old Ezri needs help to get through the day.

Having "lost most of the pleasures of life to smoking," Ezri is one of 15 smokers or their relatives who are suing Dubek – the country's 65-year-old tobacco monopoly – for a total of NIS 15 million in compensation.

Lawyers Gidi Frishtik and Alon Gellert have asked the Tel Aviv District Court to recognize the case as a class-action suit. If the court agrees, some 100,000 Israeli smokers who have suffered irreversible ailments will be able to sue as well.

Some, even anti-smoking advocates, might argue that Ezri and others like him should take responsibility for their actions. They smoked and should now pay the consequences. But the legal questions involved in this case are not so cut and dried.

The lawyers will argue that Dubek, like other tobacco companies around the world, manufactured and distributed a dangerous product while knowing that it had the potential to kill its customers. Tobacco-leaf processing requires nicotine – an addictive substance – to be removed and then returned to the tobacco. Manufacturers then add chemicals that increase the drug's absorption into the bloodstream.

The plaintiffs' lawyers charge that Dubek developed strains of high-nicotine tobacco to make as many customers as possible addicted and increase the company's profits.

For decades, Dubek has mass marketed its products. And it advertised them with the message that smoking would bring consumers health, joy, virility and social status. One of Dubek's old brands, Silon, was advertised in the '50s depicting soldiers and the slogan "Silon – security for the smoker." Another Dubek brand boasted: "My throat is happy and so am I." The advertisements drew millions into customers' heads the falsehood that filters "catch the cigarette's waste products," and that "like" cigarettes, with reduced tar but 4,000 other chemicals, were



The company advertised its Silon brand using words like 'security' and 'protection.'

less lethal than "regular" ones.

The lawyers prepared a thick booklet comprising such advertisements, along with copies of *Tobacco News*, a Hebrew-language newsletter supposedly published by the Israel Smokers' Association, but in fact financed by Dubek. These monthly bulletins included such pseudo-scientific "revelations," as "Why it's worthwhile to smoke: Smokers burn more calories" and "Smoking improves thinking and concentration."

Soon after the 1964 US Surgeon General's report declared that smoking causes fatal illnesses, many Western countries began to require tobacco products to carry health warnings. But Dubek lobbied to prevent these warnings from appearing on its cigarettes during the '60s and '70s. In 1983 legislators were finally able to overcome Dubek's objections.

But even now, anti-smoking activists argue that the warnings are too small and not varied to catch smokers' attention.

Since 1983, the lawyers continue, Dubek "has flagrantly violated" the law by putting up huge billboards and adorning cars with cigarette ads, without the accompanying warning. It has broken regulations by using well-known personalities and young models to sell its products. It also sponsors entertainment and sports events – using its brand names, without the health warnings – which are attended by thousands of young people.

"To widen the circle of addicts," Dubek distributed its products free or in exchange for coupons among IDF soldiers," the lawyers charged.

The lawyers' brief contains authoritative opinions by some of the country's leading medical experts on the subject of smoking and its effects on health. Prof. Meir Barzai, an internal medicine specialist at Hadassah-University Hospital, declares that tobacco companies and "smokers' rights advocates" regularly disseminate falsehoods and misleading state-

ments. They point out people who died at 90 after decades of smoking and compare them to those who died at 45 without ever having had a cigarette in their lives.

Barzai says this argument "illustrates the difficulty in understanding the concept of risk. The smoker who ignores the warnings on his cigarette pack is like the driver who zooms beyond the speed limit despite the traffic sign that forbids it. He may survive the trip – if he avoided other dangers such as a sharp turn or drinking alcohol." But many smokers' lives will be made miserable and cut short by smoking.

As for those who argue "Let me enjoy my cigarette. Why do you care what I do in private?" Barzai counters that it costs the public NIS 1 billion a year to cover the costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses.

That's NIS 18,000 for one angioplasty, NIS 40,000 for bypass surgery and NIS 200,000 for a heart transplant. "Why should non-smokers have to pay for that?" he demands.

Rx FOR READERS

Kippot don't cause baldness

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

Does wearing a head covering for religious reasons – such as a kippa in men or scarfs, hats and wigs in women – cause baldness? I have noticed this phenomenon in many people, but I don't know if it's a scientific observation. J.P., Bnei Brak.

Dr. Ronni Wolf, a dermatologist at Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv, comments: Hair is not alive; it is dead protein produced by hair follicles in the scalp. People don't go bald from lack of air, or oxygen, or moisture around the scalp. Common baldness in men is due largely to genetic factors. Women whose hair thins may have a problem with their diet or hormones, or suffer from another medical condition.

Soldiers wearing their helmets for long periods in the field have complained they were losing hair as a result, but there is no factual basis to this.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page.

Write: *Rx For Readers*, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000, fax to 02-5389527 or e-mail it to jusie@post.co.il, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.

HEALTH SCAN

Traditional beliefs about glaucoma challenged

By POST HEALTH REPORTER

Contrary to medical beliefs that have been standard for a century, glaucoma is not caused only by excess pressure of liquids inside the eye.

A new theory, recently proven by Prof. Alon Harris of Indiana University's School of Medicine at Indianapolis, blames vascular insufficiency (inadequate blood supply to the eye) or vascular spasms for "erosion" of the optic nerve, leading to blindness from glaucoma.

The disease affects two percent of the world's population over the age of 40.

Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot will soon be the first in the country to obtain a special device that accurately measures blood flow to the optic nerve and the rest of the eye.

Once the device is installed in the ophthalmology department, patients will be able to undergo testing and then receive medications that treat blood-flow abnormalities and vascular spasms.

The device carries out a tomographic scan of the optic nerve using lasers; when ultrasound is added, one can measure blood flow to that part of the body exactly.

According to Harris, an Israeli-born physician who heads one of the world's largest glaucoma research centers and visited Israel recently, as many as 60% of glaucoma patients suffer from changes in the optic nerve without showing high intra-ocular pressure.

His research has appeared in a number of medical journals, including the *American Journal of Ophthalmology* and the *British*

Journal of Ophthalmology.

Now that Harris and colleagues have proven the connection between ocular vasospasms and disturbances in blood flow to glaucoma, various non-conventional medications are being considered for the treatment of the disease.

These include calcium channel blockers that have traditionally been used for treating hypertension and cardiovascular diseases, as well as nitrates, which are typically used in cardiology for ischemia (lack of oxygen due to

poor blood flow) in the coronary vessels.

Other medications being considered are angiotension antagonists, which are primarily designed to treat patients with systemic high blood pressure.

Scientists are now looking for new medications to improve blood flow in the eye and reduce spasms of the ocular blood vessels.

The device will also be used at Kaplan to follow up diabetes and AIDS patients whose sight is affected by the disease.

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Hap. Tel Aviv fly high, Maccabi plummet

By DEREK FATTAL and ORI LEWIS

Tel Aviv's big two clubs - Maccabi and Hapoel - continue to be the focal points of the seventh round of National League soccer action played over the weekend, but for very different reasons.

The unfashionable reds of Hapoel continue to set the pace and remain top of the standings following a goalless draw at Bloomfield against Maccabi Petah Tikva.

At the other end of the table, Maccabi Tel Aviv - the team that took the double two seasons ago - lie bottom for the first time in eight years, following a 1-0 defeat by division newcomers Hapoel Ashdod on Friday.

The National League now takes a four-week break during the holiday period.

Champions Beitar Jerusalem missed a chance to go top after being held to a 1-1 away draw by Hapoel Petah Tikva, while Hapoel Beersheba coach Benny Tabak was back in hot

water when the southern defense collapsed once again. The Negev side lost 5-4 at home to Hapoel Haifa.

Hapoel Tel Aviv provided a warm welcome at Bloomfield for former coach and playing star Moshe Sinai, who is now at the helm at Maccabi Petah Tikva. Sinai will probably be more pleased with the point his side took from this match than the medal presented to him before the kick off. The Tel Avivians looked far from being pacesetters in an unconvincing display, that emphasized the club's lack of attacking talent.

Ofir Shitrit saw a valiant attempt cleared off the line by Sharon Zofin, after rounding three defenders and the goalkeeper but gained partial revenge when Zofin was dismissed soon afterwards for fouling the Hapoel striker.

Despite being a man down, Maccabi almost scored late in the game but Ofir Cohen sent his shot from three meters out spiraling skywards in front of a gaping goalmouth.

According to the script, Maccabi Tel Aviv's nightmare start to the season should have ended with Friday's visit to Ashdod, however the home side's goalkeeper Assi Rahamim performed magnificently to keep the Tel Avivians off the scoresheet. Ashdod always looked sprightly moving from attack to defense while Maccabi's cause was made more difficult following the second-half dismissal of debutant central defender Oren Rotem. The decisive goal came in the 70th minute when Ashdod's Samir Zamphyr came through on the blind side of the Maccabi defense to slot the ball coolly into goal.

It was clearly not meant to be Maccabi's day when Rahamim dived at the feet of Nir Klinger to prevent a certain equalizer.

Maccabi Haifa gained three useful points in an undistinguished match against Bnei Yehuda. The game's only goal came in the

45th minute shortly after Bnei Yehuda's Alon Schwager was sent off.

Just like leaders Hapoel Tel Aviv, second-placed Hapoel Jerusalem failed to show that their place at the top of the standings is really justified. They beat visiting Hapoel Beit She'an 1-0 at Teddy Stadium, but many chances went begging, particularly in the second half, when the Jerusalemites' lack of a quality striker really became apparent after Assi Tubi had been substituted.

Hapoel Kfar Sava moved off the bottom of the standings after scoring a 3-1 away win over Ironi Rishon LeZion. Yaniv Abargil got one and Francisco Washington the other two for Kfar Sava, Meir Azran scored the consolation penalty for Rishon in the last minute.

Ironi Ashdod also did themselves a power of good by picking up all three points in Herzliya to send the latter side to their fourth defeat of the season.

Beersheba were booed throughout their match with Hapoel Haifa. Only Yossi Benayoun was given any encouragement. Beersheba went ahead 2-0, but Haifa pulled right back and took a 4-2 lead before ending up 5-4 winners.

National League										
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Diff.	Pts.	Goalkeepers	Goalkeepers
Hapoel Tel Aviv	1	7	4	3	10	6	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Jerusalem	2	6	4	3	10	6	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Beersheba	3	6	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Ashdod	4	5	4	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Petah Tikva	5	4	4	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Haifa	6	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Be'er Sheva	7	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Kfar Sava	8	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Rishon LeZion	9	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Herzliya	10	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Bnei Yehuda	11	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Ironi Rishon LeZion	12	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Ironi Ashdod	13	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Beitar Jerusalem	14	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Tel Aviv	15	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Haifa	16	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Beersheba	17	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Ashdod	18	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Petah Tikva	19	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Haifa	20	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Beersheba	21	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Ashdod	22	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Petah Tikva	23	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Haifa	24	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Beersheba	25	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Ashdod	26	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Petah Tikva	27	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Haifa	28	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Beersheba	29	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Ashdod	30	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim

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Hapoel Kfar Sava	8	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
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Hapoel Maccabi Haifa	16	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Beersheba	17	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Ashdod	18	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Petah Tikva	19	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Haifa	20	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Beersheba	21	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Ashdod	22	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
Hapoel Maccabi Petah Tikva	23	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim
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Hapoel Maccabi Ashdod	30	4	3	4	11	7	4	15	Assi Rahamim	Assi Rahamim

No fireworks as Betar, Hap. PT draw 1-1

The National League's two most entertaining teams failed to provide the quality football both are capable of in Petah Tikva.

Betar took the lead thanks to a basic mistake by Petah Tikva's Avi Fleischer. The normally dependable defender weakly prodded a diagonal back-pass to Shai Hess, allowing Eli Ohana to accelerate through and whip the ball past the Hapoel goalkeeper for a 19th-minute lead.

Down a goal, the Petah Tikvians began to sting their game together, and a crisp "aim and shoot" by Moshe Kalkon in the 35th minute just ended over Kalkon's upright.

Kalkon made no mistake in supplying the equalizer from the penalty spot two minutes before half time after referee Meir Levy

adjudged that Manor Hassan had been fouled in the area by a Betar player, Nir Sivilin substituted for Eli Ohana who was forced to leave the game in the 58th minute with a painful knee injury, while Hapoel's Yaniv Ofir replaced Andrei Kristofic.

The main talking point came in the 69th minute following a powerfully driven, Albuski free kick that Hess failed to collect.

Betar's Shmuelik Levy attempted to get to the ball with a crude lunge but only succeeded in crashing into the Petah Tikva keeper. In reaction to the assault on his teammate, Ilan Buzan let loose at Levy, and after order was restored both offending players were dismissed.

Derek Fattal

US stunned as Europe take 9-4 Ryder Cup lead

VALDERRAMA, Spain (Reuters) - Europe left the United States shell-shocked and reeling as they stretched their lead to five points by shutting out the Americans on the second day of the Ryder Cup yesterday.

The holders broke away to a 9-4 lead by winning five and halving two of the seven matches completed yesterday to leave the Americans desperately needing good results from three unfinished foursomes today to have a chance in the singles.

Those three were halted by darkness with each team leading one and the third all square.

Key to the strong European position was the fourballs when they won three and halved one while inflicting defeats on Masters champion Tiger Woods, British Open champion Justin Leonard and PGA champion Davis Love.

"Obviously I'm disappointed but I think that surprised describes it better," US captain Tom Kite said.

"I put some strong teams out there. I don't know what happened."

"But this is not insurmountable," he said. "We are going to have to play like crazy, but it is not insurmountable."

"We were out-paired. Even our guys who putted well were out-paired," said Kite, citing a couple misses by Mickelson as indicative of his team's luck.

European skipper Seve Ballesteros refused to get carried away with the situation.

"The Europeans have been really lucky but the Americans are very strong and what we should not do now is relax about our games," he said.

With Ballesteros popping up everywhere in pursuit of his Spanish



CAPTAIN'S ORDER'S - European team captain Seve Ballesteros tries to give advice to Colin Montgomerie from the edge of the 14th green, as US captain Tom Kite looks on.

dream as the fourballs progressed, first Colin Montgomerie and rookie Darren Clarke won by one hole over Love and Fred Couples after Montgomerie birdied the 16th and 17th holes and Clarke safely parred the last.

Their win came after Couples had holed a 76-yard wedge shot for an eagle two at the eighth.

Then Ian Woosnam and Danish debutant Thomas Bjorn scored a 2 and 1 triumph over Leonard and Brad Faxon with Woosnam weathering a putting assault by Leonard in the early stages before the European pair took control.

"It was one of the greatest matches I've ever been involved in," Woosnam said. "I think we were eight under for the day and that's impressive on a course like this."

Nick Faldo and his rookie partner Lee Westwood beat Woods and Mike O'Meara 2 and 1 with Woods putting around the 17th green into the lake that fronts it in a desperate attempt to battle back.

Faldo birdied the 16th and 17th holes after Westwood birdied the 15th as they registered their second win in three matches.

In the fourth match, Jose Maria Olazabal holed from 20 feet at the

last as he and Ignacio Garrido halved with Tom Lehman and Phil Mickelson.

The Spaniards trailed by one with three holes left but Olazabal birdied the 16th from 10 feet.

Then Garrido made an outstanding birdie four from a bunker behind the green at the watery 17th to match the birdie by Mickelson.

Olazabal, after bunkering his second shot following a wild drive, then holed his fourth to give Europe a half-point that they looked unlikely to take from the match.

It was the third successive match and second win for the Spaniards

who was almost lost to the game last year with crippled feet, and he was back out in a later foursomes as well.

Then in the only one of the second set of foursomes to finish, Montgomerie and Bernhard Langer beat Lee Janzen and Jim Furyk by one hole.

The two teams were level at 3-3 with two foursomes matches suspended because of bad light at the end of the first day of the 32nd Ryder Cup on Friday.

A one hour 40 minute delay at the start of play because of overnight thunderstorms meant that after the morning fourballs had been shared only two of the afternoon foursomes could be completed.

Faldo and Westwood, beaten in the morning, led Jeff Maggert and British Open champion Justin Leonard by two holes when play was controversially ended with both balls on the 16th green and Westwood facing a short putt for victory.

The decision to suspend, made by the Americans, upset Faldo.

"We agreed to play one more hole. They didn't want to putt because it was too dark," he said.

The other remaining foursome - involving Swede Jesper Parnevik and Spanish rookie Ignacio against Tom Lehman and Phil Mickelson - was stopped at all square after 12 holes.

Montgomerie and Langer, beaten by Woods and O'Meara 3 and 2 in the fourballs, turned the tables on the two Americans for a 5 and 3 foursomes victory.

But former US Open champion Lee Janzen and 41-year-old rookie Scott Hoch beat Olazabal and Costantino Rocca on the last green in the other foursomes to level the match score at 3-3.

Graham's Leeds do Arsenal a favor

LONDON (Reuters) - Arsenal pulled a point clear in the English premier league yesterday, helped by former manager George Graham.

Graham's Leeds, without a home win all season, beat champions Manchester United 1-0 at Elland Road with a 34th minute header banged in by David Wetherall.

Arsenal drew 2-2 at Everton and have 19 points to the 18 of United and Leicester. 2-0 winners at Barnsley.

It was United's first defeat of the season as well as the first away goal conceded in the campaign.

They had seven corners to Leeds' one but could not find the net despite having Norwegian Ole Gunnar Solbakken, the club's top scorer last season, making his first start of the new campaign after injury.

More worryingly, United also lost combative captain Roy Keane through injury in the second half.

But if Arsenal had Leeds to thank, then the beaten champions owed them a favor for holding the Londoners to a draw after trailing 2-0 at half-time.

Striker Ian Wright scored his eighth goal of the season, and his 182nd for Arsenal, with a 32nd minute goal laid on neatly by Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp.

In the 41st, Wright did the honors for another Dutchman, picking out Marc Overmars in the area.

But injury-hit Everton, with two teenagers in their firing line-up, never gave up and had squared the match after just 11 minutes of the second half.

Michael Ball scored his first goal for Everton in the 49th and Danny Cadamant equalized in the 56th with his second goal in two matches.

League Cup winners Leicester, with a big home UEFA Cup match against Atletico Madrid looming, moved third but behind United on goal difference.

Ian Marshall, with a header, and Graham Fenton on the rebound after his penalty was saved, were Leicester's second half scorers.

Chelsea completed a bad day for the two English clubs in next week's European Champions' League matches by beating Newcastle 1-0. The visitors were without sick Colombian Faustino Asprilla.

The west Londoners moved fourth place thanks to their 75th minute goal by Gustavo Poyet.

High-scoring Blackburn can go back ahead of them today if they win at home to Coventry.

Liverpool captain Paul Ince had an unhappy return to West Ham, his first club as a professional. He was

jeered and his side surprisingly lost 2-1.

Derby were the biggest scorers of the day, beating Southampton 4-0 with all the goals coming in an eight-minute period late in the second half.

Italian Stefano Eranio made it 1-0 from a questionable penalty in the 76th, Costa Rican Paolo Wanchopie hit the second in the 79th, Italian Francesco Baiano the third in the 82nd and Lee Carsley the last in the 84th.

Aston Villa and Sheffield Wednesday, with both managers under fire after dismal results, satisfied none of their fans with a 2-2 draw at Villa Park.

Premier League: Aston Villa 2, Sheffield Wednesday 2; Arsenal 1, Leicester 2; Chelsea 1, Newcastle 0; Crystal Palace 2, Bolton 2; Derby 4, Southampton 0; Everton 2, Arsenal 2; Leeds 1, Manchester United 0; Tottenham 0, Wimbledon 0; West Ham 2, Liverpool 1.

Division One: Bury 1, West Bromwich Albion 3; Charlton 1, Stockport 3; Crewe 2, Tranmere 1; Manchester City 5, Swindon 0; Nottingham Forest 1, Stoke 0; Oxford United 0, Bradford 0; Port Vale 2, Queens Park Rangers 0; Portsmouth 0, Reading 2; Sheffield United 0, Birmingham 0; Wolves 1, Huddersfield 1.

Division Two: Blackpool 3, Southend 0; Bournemouth 0, Grimsby 1; Brentford 2, Burnley 1; Bristol City 3, Luton 0; Carlisle 2, Gillingham 1; Northampton 2, Millwall 0; Oldham 4, Bristol Rovers

Schilling sets strikeout mark

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Curt Schilling set the NL record for strikeouts by a right-hander in a season before being ejected in the eighth inning Friday night to lead the Philadelphia Phillies to a 5-3 win over the Florida Marlins.

Schilling (17-11) needed only one strikeout to break the record, and he wasted no time, getting leadoff hitter Devon White swinging for his 314th strikeout. He passed the old mark of 313 set by Houston's J.R. Richard in 1979.

The right-hander allowed three hits and struck out six. In the eighth, Schilling was tossed by home plate umpire Wally Bell after hitting pinch-hitter John Wheeler leading off.

Braves 7, Mets 6 (11) — Rafael Belliard hit his first home run in more than 10 years and Danny Bautista drove in the go-ahead run with two outs in the top of the 11th.

Cubs 5, Cardinals 2 — Mark McGwire, who now has just two games left to catch Roger Maris' 60 home runs for the sixth time in the last seven games as host St. Louis lost its seventh straight.

McGwire remains tied with Seattle's Ken Griffey Jr. for the major league lead in homers with 55, but Maris' 61 is all but out of reach. Griffey took the night off against Oakland.

Astros 2, Pirates 0 — In Houston, Jeff Bagwell, Craig Biggio and Derek Bell all were out of the starting lineup, a day after the Astros clinched the NL Central.

Biggio came into the dugout sport-

ing a puffy-cheeked mask and wearing hitting coach Tom McCraw's uniform. Left fielder Luis Gonzalez set Bagwell's shoelaces on fire, and center fielder Richard Hidalgo also found his shoelaces blazing.

Garcia (9-8) won his fourth straight decision, allowing six hits in seven innings. Billy Wagner struck out the side in the ninth for his 23rd save.

Dodgers 10, Rockies 4 — Mike Piazza launched the longest home run in Coors Field history, a 496-footer that enabled Los Angeles to remain in the NL West race with a win over the Colorado Rockies.

The Dodgers began the night trailing San Francisco, which played San Diego, by two games in the division race. The Giants and Dodgers each have two games remaining this weekend.

Colorado's Larry Walker hit his league-leading 49th home run.

Yankees 8, Tigers 2 — Bernie Williams hit a bases-loaded triple in a six-run ninth and four New York pitchers combined on a one-hitter Friday night as New York won its eighth straight at Tiger Stadium.

Andy Pettitte, turning up for next week's AL divisional playoffs with Cleveland, allowed one hit — Travis Fryman's two-run single — in four innings and was lifted after throwing 75 pitches.

Brian Boehringer pitched three perfect innings and Mariano Rivera (6-4) pitched a hitless eighth for the win. Jeff Nelson finished the combined one-hitter by pitching the ninth.

National Football Conference

Quarterbacks

	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
Duffy, T.B.	94	59	720	8	2
Favre, G.B.	131	76	1024	9	4
Johnson, Min.	152	98	1054	8	4
Adams, Dal.	106	57	671	5	0
Chandler, Atl.	67	40	572	3	3
Mitchell, Det.	148	81	1040	8	5
T. Decker, Phi.	87	46	460	2	0
Tolliver, Atl.	65	34	341	2	1
Brown, NY-G	139	73	807	3	2
K. Graham, Ariz	123	63	629	2	1

Rushers

	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
R. Smith, Min.	67	440	6.6	78	2
Lewis, G.B.	82	371	4.5	29	1
R. Harris, Chi.	64	335	5.2	68	4
Phillips, S.C.	85	329	3.9	28	4
Sanders, Det.	62	327	5.3	28	0
E. Smith, Dal.	72	292	4.1	44	0
Dunn, T.B.	59	285	4.8	52	2
Waters, Phi.	61	268	4.4	24	1
Johnson, San	60	264	4.4	20	0
Hearst, S.E.	58	238	4.1	35	1

Receivers

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Moore, Det.	31	375	12.1	43	4
Reed, Min.	28	387	13.8	54	3
Carson, Min.	28	329	11.8	54	3
Galloway, NY-G	19	213	11.2	21	2
Engman, Chi.	19	194	10.2	18	1
Brooks, G.B.	18	245	13.6	48	2
Hastings, N.O.	18	244	13.5	47	3
Emanuel, Atl.	17	292	17.2	56	1
Sanders, Ariz.	17	181	10.6	27	1
Freeman, G.B.	16	237	14.8	28	3
R. Moore, Ariz.	14	231	16.5	47	0

Punt Returners

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Schroeder, G.B.	14	219	15.6	46	0
Palmer, Min.	8	111	13.9	30	0
Sanders, Dal.	7	91	13.0	38	0
Guilford, N.O.	12	138	11.5	23	0
Wardrobe, S.E.	9	102	11.3	36	0
Seay, Phi.	6	64	10.7	42	0
Tomer, NY-G	19	170	8.9	17	0
Williams, S.C.	10	83	8.3	27	0
K. Williams, Ariz	9	71	7.9	16	0
Williams, T.B.	9	68	7.6	25	0

Kickoff Returners

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Bates, Car.	11	319	29.0	54	0
Guilford, N.O.	12	344	28.7	102	1
Mitchell, Was.	6	172	28.7	97	1
Walker, Dal.	8	210	26.3	43	0
Lewis, NY-G	14	364	26.0	84	0
Schroeder, G.B.	8	194	24.3	40	0
Hillman, Det.	15	345	23.0	50	0
Brown, Ariz.	6	136	22.7	27	0
Hughes, Chi.	21	476	22.7	41	0
K. Williams, Ariz	12	224	18.7	33	0

Touchdowns

	TD	Recd	Ret	Pts
Almont, T.B.	4	2	2	24
Carson, Min.	4	0	4	24
R. Harris, Chi.	4	0	4	24
Moore, Det.	4	0	4	24

American Football Conference

Quarterbacks

	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
Phillips, S.C.	4	4	0	0	24
Walt, Car.	4	0	4	0	24
Barber, NY-G	3	3	0	0	20
Hastings, N.O.	3	0	3	0	20
Dunn, T.B.	3	2	1	0	18
Freeman, G.B.	3	0	3	0	18
Reed, Min.	3	0	3	0	18

Punters

	No	Yds	LG	Avg
M. Turk, Was.	14	647	59	46.2
Henrich, G.B.	17	784	59	46.1
Royals, M.D.	15	686	61	45.7
Just, Det.	21	942	60	44.9
Walt, Car.	20	896	62	44.8
Gavin, Dal.	16	712	56	44.5
Hayward, NY-G	29	1264	57	43.6
Thompson, S.E.	21	904	55	43.0
Sauerbrun, Chi.	25	1072	64	42.9
Brice, S.C.	26	1110	61	42.7

Kicking

	PAT	FG	LG	Pts
Cunningham, Dal.	5-5	13-14	53	44
Longwell, G.B.	10-10	10-11	39	40
Anderson, S.E.	8-8	8-10	43	32
Davis, Min.	10-10	7-10	43	31
Kasay, Car.	5-5	8-11	52	29
Wilkins, S.C.	8-8	7-9	52	29
Hanson, Det.	10-10	6-7	48	28
Husted, T.B.	12-12	4-5	41	24
Brien, N.O.	7-7	5-7	53	22
Blanton, Was.	5-5	5-7	38	20

Touchdowns

	TD	Recd	Ret	Pts
Medina, N.E.	135	81	1070	12
Elway, Det.	188	65	852	9
George, Oak.	136	78	1253	9
Testaverde, Bal.	149	94	1138	9
Bruneel, Jac.	42	24	306	1
O'Donnell, NY-G	144	81	957	7
Gibbs, S.C.	126	71	830	6
Bale, Cin.	110	69	789	3
Collins, Buf.	142	85	1081	7
Hartshorn, Ind.	115	71	618	1

Rushers

	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Davis, Det.	95	526	5.5	50	3
Marin, N.E.	101	474	4.7	70	2
Kaufman, Oak.	75	362	4.8	61	3
George, Oak.	68	362	5.3	29	2
Bruneel, Jac.	42	24	306	1	1
O'Donnell, NY-G	144	81	957	7	2
Gibbs, S.C.	126	71	830	6	2
Bale, Cin.	110	69	789	3	7
Collins, Buf.	142	85	1081	7	7
Hartshorn, Ind.	115	71	618	1	2

Receivers

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
T. Brown, Oak.	33	535	16.2	59	4
Smith, Car.	34	387	11.4	41	3
Pickens, Cin.	24	383	16.0	48	2
Neal, Buf.	23	385	16.7	77	2
Jackson, Bal.	23	373	16.2	54	2
McDuffie, Min.	22	257	11.7	50	1
Harrison, Ind.	21	194	9.2	25	1
Alexander, Bal.	20	250	12.5	45	3
Anders, L.C.	19	175	9.2	35	2
R. Smith, Det.	18	339	18.8	78	4

Touchdowns

	TD	Recd	Ret	Pts
Almont, T.B.	4	2	2	24
Carson, Min.	4	0	4	24
R. Harris, Chi.	4	0	4	24
Moore, Det.	4	0	4	24

Punt Returners

Quarterbacks

	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
Phillips, S.C.	4	4	0	0	24
Walt, Car.	4	0	4	0	24
Barber, NY-G	3	3	0	0	20
Hastings, N.O.	3	0	3	0	20
Dunn, T.B.	3	2	1	0	18
Freeman, G.B.	3	0	3	0	18
Reed, Min.	3	0	3	0	18

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Gibbs, S.C.	126	71	830	6	2
Bale, Cin.	110	69	789	3	7
Collins, Buf.	142	85	1081	7	7
Hartshorn, Ind.	115	71	618	1	2

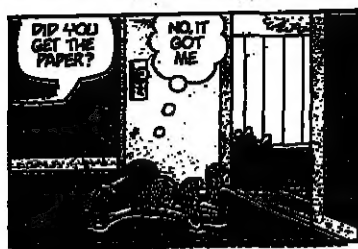
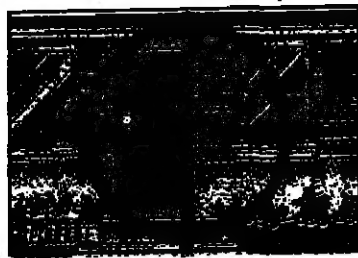
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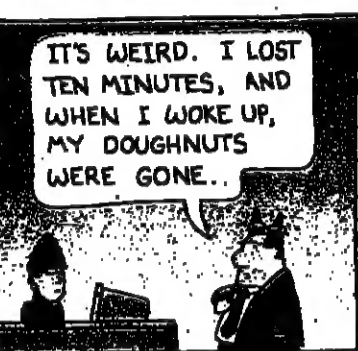
Touchdowns

Hollis, Jac.	11-11	7-10	52	32
Bischoff, Ind.	3-3	9-12	49	30
Christie, Buf.	10-10	6-6	46	28
Stoyanovich, K.C.	7-8	7-8	46	28
Carney, S.D.	5-5	7-7	41	26

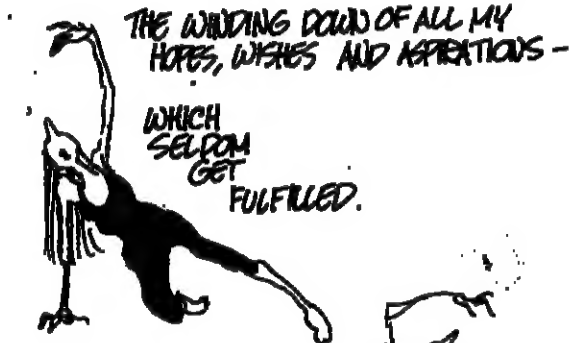
SUNDAY COMICS



BY SCOTT ADAMS



FEIFFER



Calvin and Hobbes



US Jews in dilemma over Israeli gun sales

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Navigating through a political and moral mine field, American Jewish organizations are cautiously trying to oppose a TAAS-Israel Industries contract to sell assault weapons in the US, balancing their support for gun control against support for Israel.

Meanwhile, Senator Dianne Feinstein, a mighty advocate of gun control, has asked President Bill Clinton to temporarily suspend the import of some semiautomatic weapons.

"Even if it is technically legal, the importation of these weapons is highly problematic," said Martin Raffel, associate director of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, an umbrella organization of Jewish community relations councils and defense agencies in the US. "No one thinks it was a good idea to sell these weapons in the US. The only question is how to express it," Raffel said Friday.

"We're not against the Israeli arms industry by any stretch of the imagination. We are for a strong Israel," Raffel said. "We're certainly not trying to undermine Israel's ability to defend itself through a strong arms industry." Americans, in

general, are passionately and sharply divided on gun control, resulting in a confusing array of laws that attempt to regulate access to weapons in a society where the right to bear arms is enshrined in the Constitution.

The Jewish community, which generally backs gun control, squirmed because it appears that Israel was singled out for criticism when Feinstein said that, "By advancing this export, the Israeli government is putting the official imprimatur of its people on the commercial sale of weapons designed, not for hunting but for combat, not to protect but to kill."

Feinstein, a California Democrat, asked Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in a letter on September 11, to intervene to cancel the contract, which could import to the US tens of thousands of Galil- and Uzi-like assault weapons.

The American Jewish Congress wrestled with its opposition to the Israeli contract, noting the irony of calling on another country to exercise restraint on behalf of Americans, when the Americans have been unwilling to impose limits on themselves.

"The American people could decisively end this practice by making all such imports illegal if we wanted to," Phil Baum, executive director of the AJC, said in a statement last week. "These terrible weapons have no place in American life no matter where they may be manufactured."

According to the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the Israeli weapons have been sufficiently modified to meet the technical legal requirements for import into the US.

However, Feinstein said Thursday in a Senate speech that the export of semiautomatic assault weapons into the US may violate a 1968 gun control law, which allows the import of only those firearms "generally recognized as particularly suitable for, or readily adaptable to, sporting purposes."

Feinstein has asked Clinton to suspend the import of specific semiautomatic weapons until there is a review about whether these weapons are suitable for sporting purposes. "These weapons are not designed for sporting purposes. They are not designed for hunting," she said Thursday. "They are the weapons of choice for grievance killers, for gangs, and for those who go up against the police."

"They are designed to kill large numbers of people in combat, just as the Uzi and the Galil were designed for the Israeli military to do just that," Feinstein said. "They have no place on the streets of a civilized society."

The American Reform movement has backed Feinstein and called on Netanyahu to halt the sale, saying that "weapons of war intended to help save lives in the Middle East (should) not contribute to the bloodying of American streets."

WEATHER

Haifa 19-27	Tiberias 19-32
Afula 17-30	Samarita 18-28
Tel Aviv 19-28	Jerusalem 18-25
Beer Sheva 19-30	Dead Sea 25-37
Elitz 22-35	

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Local rain in the North.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND
Amsterdam	08	14	22
Berlin	08	14	22
Buenos Aires	08	14	22
Chicago	08	14	22
Copenhagen	08	14	22
Frankfurt	08	14	22
Geneva	08	14	22
Helsinki	08	14	22
Hong Kong	08	14	22
London	08	14	22
Los Angeles	08	14	22
Madrid	08	14	22
Moscow	08	14	22
New York	08	14	22
Paris	08	14	22
Rome	08	14	22
Stockholm	08	14	22
Sydney	08	14	22
Tokyo	08	14	22
Vienna	08	14	22
Zurich	08	14	22

Winning cards

In Friday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the queen of spades, the 7 of hearts, the 9 of diamonds and the 9 of clubs.

Teen suspect in US killing arrested here

Answering a request from US authorities, police here placed a 17-year-old suspect in a Maryland killing under arrest yesterday.

The suspect, Samuel Sheinbein, who reportedly suffered from a drug overdose and psychiatric problems, was checked into the Abarbanel Psychiatric Hospital in Bat Yam, under orders from a district psychiatrist Friday.

Sheinbein and an alleged accomplice, Aaron Benjamin Needle, are charged with murdering Alfredo Enrique Tello Jr., 19, in Maryland. A real-estate agent last week found Tello's dismembered and charred remains inside a home she was going to show.

Friday, the US Embassy issued a formal extradition request had been submitted to Israel.

The Washington Post said Sheinbein arrived in Israel on Monday, three days after Tello's body was discovered. The daily said the family's attorney had arranged Sheinbein's return and his surrender to US authorities, but that he failed to board a flight from Tel Aviv to New York on Thursday. (AP)

Diehard smoker attacks hospital staffer

By JUDY SIEGEL

A 42-year-old day-hospital patient caught smoking in a hallway of Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem broke the wrist of a senior hospital staffer last Wednesday, after being asked politely to move to the smoking corner.

The patient, who undergoes treatment in the internal-medicine day unit on a regular basis, hit deputy housekeeping department director Rami Pinhas on his wrist with the metal pole holding his infusion bag. It was the first such attack involving enforcement of the no-smoking law at Hadassah.

"He was smoking under the 'No Smoking' sign," recalled Pinhas, who does volunteer rounds — wearing a special badge — to restrict smoking in the hospital. "I asked the patient to move a few meters down the hall to the smoking corner. But even before I could finish my sentence, he attacked me with the metal stand."

"I called a security man, who took control of him and moved him to the department. The patient refused to apologize in writing and promise to smoke only in designated smoking areas, so I had no choice but to file a formal complaint with the police," Pinhas said.

When his pain did not dissipate, Pinhas went to the emergency room, where an X-ray showed a fracture in his right wrist. "I quit smoking myself five years ago," said Pinhas, 41, and the father of three, "and now I

realize how much it bothers and harms other people. I hadn't paid attention to it before."

Pinhas noted that restricting smoking at Hadassah is not just a matter of health or aesthetics.

"We want to bar smoking entirely, but patients and visitors refuse to observe this. We spend many thousands of shekels a year on replacing linoleum flooring that is burned by tossed cigarettes. There have also been small fires caused by butts thrown into waste baskets."

Pinhas charged that the Jerusalem Municipality and the police "do nothing" to enforce laws restricting smoking in public places and workplaces like Hadassah. "Their inspectors never come here when we ask for them. So our hospital guards and volunteers have to hand out summonses to people who refuse to stop smoking. All the municipality does is pocket the money from the fines."

Hospital chief administrator Moshe Wolfenson added that Hadassah has offered to hire staff to enforce the no-smoking rules, on condition that it collect the fines to cover the expenses, but the municipality refuses to go along with this and demands the money.

A city spokesman said representatives of the municipality and the hospital met twice to discuss the issue and agreed that since there is a police station in the hospital, the hospital guards would enforce no-smoking laws on the premises and call the police if necessary.

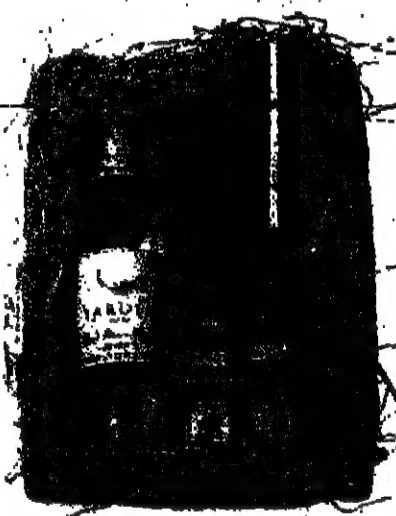


'Shofar' services

Shofar blowers (from left) Yitzhak Ben-Shoshan, Danny Yomtov and Beni Yomtov sound 'shofarot' at an early morning 'shofar' service last week at the Ateret Mordechai Sephardic Synagogue in Jerusalem's East Talpiaz neighborhood. Ashkenazi congregations began saying 'shofar' last night.

book department

Jerusalem Post Offerings Rosh Hashana, 1997



Spice and Nice

Add a little spice to a sweet new year! Our basket includes a bottle of wine (375 ml), a jar of honey, olive oil and Israeli spices. NIS 150



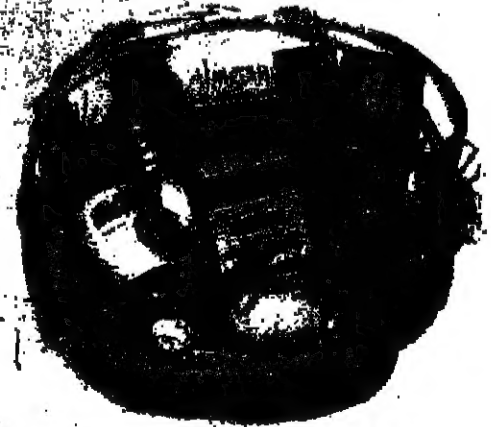
Sweet Year in Jerusalem

It should be a sweet year with our basket holding a bottle of wine (375 ml), tea, chocolate bar, Swiss petite fruits, a jar of honey, almonds, marzipan, chocolate-jelly, candles and a special card with a taste of honey. NIS 150



Spice and Nice-Twice

To bring in a year of sweetness, with a touch of pepper, we have a bottle of fine wine, a jar of apples in honey, packaged in a wooden frame, gourmet olive oil, spices of honey candles, two Israeli spices, and herbal teas. NIS 250



Sweeter Year in Jerusalem

Send a treat to someone you love with our basket of sweets: wine, chocolate-covered lemon peels or dates, candy-coated almonds, Swiss Petite fruits, white and dark chocolate-covered almonds, chocolate sticks, tea, marzipan, honey candies, honey in a ceramic container and a honey dipper. NIS 250



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